

# SUMMER SPIRIT-LIFE SUSTAINMENT STUDIES

## WALKING IN INTEGRITY

affixing our hearts to dutifully pursue the Spirit's  
hallowed, beaconing invitation to partake of the  
enriching blessings of immersive fellowship  
& active engagement in the soul-elevating  
challenges of appointed stewardship



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Walking in Integrity  
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# WALKING IN INTEGRITY

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## WALKING IN INTEGRITY

### FOR HIS GREATER KINGDOM PURPOSES

**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

**Eph 2:10 (KJV)**



## A Crucial Spirit-Life Essential

Here, we observe that the most important aspect of our lives in the eyes of God is not the offered craft or efforts of our hands, but the normative state (daily of our heart sentiment toward Him and His Word.

Specifically, in this inspired account the Lord emphasized this vital, true spirit life element of immense importance, namely abiding in His presence.

Hence, we observe that once Solomon had rightly completed the divine assignment that was entrusted to him, promptly the Lord again (as He has always desired) came to dwell among His holy heritage.

Recall, when the Art of the Covenant was finally placed in the “holy place” of the newly constructed Temple, the inspired narrative of **1 Kings 8:10-11** reported: **“And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord,**

**“So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.”**

Then, later in verse **57-58** Solomon earnestly petitioned: **“The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:**

**“That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.”**

Again, the crucial truth point is shown to us in the fact that the Lord delights in perpetual fellowship with His people.

## LESSON ONE

But the condition. of that amazing blessing is contingent on the state of the “integrity of our hearts.”

Godly integrity is tied to God’s standards and righteousness. It both centers and orbits about aligning one’s heart with God’s will, even when others cannot monitor or discern the true motives of our thoughts and actions.

Assuredly, let us never forget the timeless truth point declared by the Lord in **Jeremiah 17:10** that affirmed, **“I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”**

Even at the commencement of our redemptive Salvation Experience, the Lord Jesus plainly stipulated to us in **John 14:23b**, **“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”**

And presently, the generations of N.T. Christ followers are reminded in **1 Corinthians 6:19**, **“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”**

Thus, we are shown the sheer importance of maintaining a blameless heart sphere where our thoughts and desires are constrained to align with the Word of God, so that our endearing bond of mutual fellowship with our great God can be continually maintained.

Alluding to this deliberate action the inspired composer rightly petitioned in **Psalms 19:14**, **“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”**

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### STUDY TEXT (1)

1 Chronicles 22:11-13, 18-19 (KJV)

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**1 Chronicles 22:11** Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee.

**12** Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.

**13** Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

**18** Is not the LORD your God with you? and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people.

**19** Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD.

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## LESSON ONE

# 1

## ONE PRIMARY CONCERN

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**FOCUS TEXT:** Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD.

**1 Chronicles 22:19 (KJV)**

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Herein we observe the premier sacred, singular appointment or assignment for which Solomon was divinely selected and commissioned.

Namely, as markedly described in **verse 9**, to oversee the initiation and construction of the Holy Temple; endearing described by the Lord as, “a house for my name.”

According to the genealogical document record of **1 Chronicles 3:1-7**, David had 16 legitimate (via marriage to wives) sons; namely, “**Amnon, Daniel, Absalom, Adonijah, Shephatiah, Ithream, Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet, Nogah, Nephag, Japhia, Eliada**; in addition to “**beside the sons of the concubines, and Tamar their sister.**”

And from this immensely full quiver, the Lord had long since distinctly foretold regarding His choice of royal successor in **verse 9b-10a**, “**for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.**

“**He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father.**”

Again, the keynote point of emphasis are the holy affirmation that was stated by the Most High. He had keenly stressed in

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**verse 10a: “He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father.”**

Thus, later as David neared the time of his earthly departure, this divine declaration was fully disclosed in the public forum before the whole nation; and particularly before the important group of those who comprised the leadership of the nation.

Thus, regardless of what his blood kindred may have entertained regarding their chances of ascending to sit in the “high seat” of the supreme office of the land, Solomon particularly was selected by God to be entrusted with the enormously important and monumental task of overseeing the Temple project, in addition to serving as royal monarch and chief executive of the nation.

Now, before we commence interjecting our own feelings, comments, and opinions regarding the matter; it behooves us to duly remember who was actually in charge of the nation.

Unquestionably, the Lord reminds us regarding King David that despite that transpired in his life; despite all the side ventures; and too, despite all the life debilitating, self-inflicted misstep ventures that he had introduced and invited into his life path; predominately Scripture affirmatively validates to us that his heart remained loyal and true to advocating the higher goal of promoting God’s glory.

Moreover, that his life fully centered on advancing Heaven’s redemptive agenda as had been clearly defined in the Word of God.

From the inspired and insightful reference testimonial profiling his faith legacy, cited centuries later in **Acts 13:12**, we are told: **“And when he had removed him (Saul), he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.”**

Moreover, with Heaven’s broader, bridging, prophetic redemptive objective always in view, **verse 23** further explained:

## LESSON ONE

**“Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”**

Hence, even then we are shown the immense significant relevance between the earlier events of biblical history and its interconnectivity with these “latter day” contemporary times.

And too, with respect to the divine references to the sphere and scope of Heaven’s oversight directives defining the Lord’s relationship with Solomon, we fully observe this same radiating, prophetic overtone that plainly indicates to us the same messianic, foreshadowing truth aspects in view in the divine promises that were declared to him.

In other words, in more brief and simple terms, we observe the practical, providentially divine outworking of **Philippians 2:13** that summarily affirms to us: **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”**

Comparatively, citing God’s direct interventive objective, Scripture documented in **2 Samuel 7:8b-9a** with respect to David’s appointed life path, we read: **“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheeppcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:**

**“And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.”**

**“And again, likewise regarding Solomon we read in 1 Chronicles 22:10a, “He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father.”**

### THE HALLOWED & HOLY CHARGE

After Solomon was made fully aware of the divine will that had been revealed concerning his life, he was promptly issued the kindred hallowed and holy charge that has been given to every generation of “the redeemed;” and applicable to every individual

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servant of God regardless of what rank or position we have been assigned by Spirit within the broader sphere of Kingdom service.

Moreover, we are shown in **2 Chronicles 22:19** that the common universal, prerequisite demand-elements of this Heavenly commission requires three immediate and imperative responses from us; namely, “set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God” and “arise therefore.”

### SET YOUR HEART & SOUL TO SEEK

Herein, we are shown the essential response actions that are generally associated with meaningfully commencing any venture in the sphere of natural life; however, its presence is an absolute imperative in the sphere of spiritual affairs.

Notably, we observe that essential aspects of our inner being are not showcased independent of each other, but rather, introduced in their innate pair fashion.

Here, perhaps King David is referring the keynote holy admonition of **Deuteronomy 6:5-6**, where the divine truth directives timelessly charged every generation of “the redeemed” to fully comply: “**And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**”

**“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart.”**

Clearly, as God’s Word repeated reveals to us, if our heart is not rightly informed and affixed on pleasing Him, any effort (regardless of how festively and celebratorily) initiated in His Name will ultimately stall and fade; especially once the associate elements of hindrances and challenge begin to surface as it progressive advances.

Hence, wisely the Lord Jesus exhorted every hearer regarding the demands of the Gospel in **Luke 14:26-28**: “**If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and**

## LESSON ONE

children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

**“And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.**

**“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?**

And too, Scripture reminds us (Christ followers) that the same demands are equally true in the sphere spiritual service.

Too, as cited in **verse 13**, any meaningful forward progress achieved in the holy effort would only materialize in accordance with that which was stipulated according to the Word of God.

Thus, David had firmly exhorted Solomon, **“Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel.”**

Again, the unavoidable requirements of compliance with the mandates of Scripture are indispensable essential.

Sadly, too many of us chose to believe otherwise; therefore, we attempt to achieve and accomplish by various other “ungodly” means; hence, eventually discovery that our effort becomes unprofitably futile.

We must never forget that the true “work of God” and never be accomplished apart from biblically established divine means and resources.

Indisputably, we need His Word, His Presence & His Power.

### ARISE THEREFORE & BUILD

Once the essential internal aspects of our life have been brought into submission, subsequently we must be propelled into action to accomplish that which now has become the central focus of our hearts.

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It does little good, to be made aware of the duties and responsibilities that become our lot, if we make no effort to fulfill and complete them.

Unquestionably, “a wild and overgrown lawn, does not cut itself,” but directly requires the initiative and expenditure of strenuous effort to tame it and re-fashion it into a form of visual aesthetic appeal.

The serious tenor of the solemn charge was designed to instill in us the earnest impulse of the call to action. That is, there was no time to waste and no reason to procrastinate now that the forward path had been clearly revealed to them.

The Lord had already made known His will to them, and now they were obligated to act upon that knowledge.

Likewise, our response should be the same, once the Spirit of God (through His Word) provides us with the direction that we should follow

## LESSON ONE

# KEYNOTE TOUCH POINTS

**FULL COMPLIANCE:** Throughout the record of Scripture, we observe the divine requirement of complete embracement of and obedience to Word of God has always been the means that propelled the faithful servant along the progressive path of prevailing faith. Remarking on the results, Psalms 1:3 cited: **“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”**

**OPPORTUNE MOMENTS:** By the grace of God, Solomon was granted the opportunity to engage in a spiritual venture that was endearing sought for by King David. Hence, the King wisely urged him not to squander this magnificent moment that was place before him. In **1 Chronicles 28:10**, he duly charged him: **“Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.”**

**INTENTIONAL FOCUS:** The clear expectation was that once the details of divine was made known, prompt actions were to be enacted to commence the holy venture that would take years to complete. Likewise, regarding the scope of activity of the N.T. Christ follower, the Lord distinctly directed us through the parable illustration of the **Luke 19:13**, **“13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.”**

## WALKING IN INTEGRITY

### STUDY TEXT (2)

#### 1 Kings 9:1-5 (KJV)

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**1 Kings 9:1** And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,

**2** That the Lord appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

**3** And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

**4** And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

**5** Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

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## LESSON TWO

# 2

# WALK BEFORE ME

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**FOCUS TEXT:** And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: **1 Kings 9:4 (KJV)**

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In his prayer of dedication regarding the erection of the newly built Temple of the Lord, Solomon petitioned the Lord to grant an array of blessings for all of those who confessed their sins and prayed in the direction of the place the bore His Name on earth.

Moreover, when the significance of what had been accomplished was fully considered, even the sentiment of Heaven concluded that the final result was greatly noteworthy and wonderfully monumental.

In **verse 3** the Lord emphatically highlighted, **“And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.”**

Now most assuredly not every servant is genuinely concerned about his performance in the eyes of his master. We readily observe the daily practice of this natural truism each day on our jobs.

How often to we note the lack of assertion toward excellence in the sphere of our own workplace? Or, perhaps even lacking in our own efforts?

The various readers of these words undoubtedly are employed in many distinctive fields and occupations; however, we each of us

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can unquestionably attest to the validity of this point. The Lord makes us fully aware that such, too, is the case in the spiritual sphere, amidst the vast numbers of the “household of Faith.”

The text of **2 Timothy 2:20** definitively affirms, “**But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.**”

## A TRANSPARENT REALITY

It is foolishly nave for us to believe that the Eternal Omniscient One does not and will not discriminate between the nature of the activities of each of His servants.

Throughout the record of Scripture, we see indisputable evidence that clearly, He does. He sets before us the profiles of those of us that are slothful and indifferent, as well as those of us whom He decrees as faithful.

The Lord Jesus captured the complete spectrum of our profiles in the categorical and numerically graphic depiction of **Matthew 13:8** where He described, “**But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.**”

Hence, when the record documents a significant accomplishment of one of His servants, we do well to take note of it.

Echoing the sentiment of the Lord, King Solomon did a great job overseeing the Temple project. All that had been set aside by David, his father; and all that had been decreed by divine authority was properly utilized to produce that sanctioned by the Sovereign of Heaven.

Consequently, the response of approval in **verse 3** was overwhelmingly positive. Is this not the response that every true servant of the Lord desires to hear? “**Well done, thou good and faithful servant.**” (Matt. 25:21a)

## LESSON TWO

At the end of our Sojourn of Christian Service is this not the response we pray to receive?

The affirmation of the Apostle Paul in **2 Timothy 4:7-8** reminds every servant of Christ acutely mindful of their performance that at the end of the journey of service we can expect to hear the wonderful response of eternal affirmation for our work of service.

He affirmed to Timothy, **“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: “**

**“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”**

Note that He did not reserve the affirmation from God for himself alone but included, **“and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”**

The implication is that all who strive to follow the pathway of faithful service will also be graced by the decree of eternal acceptance when we stand before the Lord.

Moreover, in light of the fact that we glean from the present text, we should consider that the Lord does not merely wait for the time of consummation before assessing our work of service.

Our Savior perpetually reminds us through His Word, **“I know thy works...” (Rev. 2:2a)**

This is what is shown in the present text regarding King Solomon. In response to his prayer to the Lord, He was again graced by a session of divine visitation where the Lord gave him both a gracious commendation, but too, a sobering warning.

That is, He highlighted that which He truly saw as noteworthy in the life of Solomon; namely, “integrity of heart.”

**KEYNOTE TOUCH POINTS**

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## SESSION THREE

### STUDY TEXT (3)

#### 1 Kings 9:6-9 (KJV)

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**1 Kings 9:6** But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

**7** Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:

**8** And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the Lord done thus unto this land, and to this house?

**9** And they shall answer, Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the Lord brought upon them all this evil.

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3

# A PREMIER NON-NEGOTIABLE

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**FOCUS TEXT:** But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them...  
**1 Kings 9:6 (KJV)**

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Again, assuredly, a most wonderful and monumental task had been accomplished, but the overarching point the Lord stressed was the true nature of Solomon's heart toward Him.

You see, no mere work of our hands, even though done in accordance with "the letter of the law" (this too is important as well) can ever substitute for the purity of the "integrity of heart."

**2 Chronicles 16:9** insightfully admonishes us to know that **"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."**

In fact, when we analyze the very basis from which all things (praise, prayer and practice) should proceed from us we must consider the unalterable, eternal legal prerequisite annunciated by the Lord Jesus in **Matthew 22:37-38**.

He firmly declared, **"hou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."**

It is certainly true that we have been "saved to serve" the Lord. It is equally true that we have been task with the divine mandate to **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."**

### SESSION THREE

If we are honest with ourselves, we must all admit that at times, we tend to offer up before the Lord the “fruit of our hands” as a substitute for the “integrity of heart.”

Why? The record of Scripture chronicles and documents the fact that typically the reason is (in particular instances or on certain occasions) we reserve the right to redirect our hearts towards our own personal pursuits.

Note the conditional nature of the Lord’s proposition to King Solomon. He posed, **“And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart...”**

Concerning Solomon’s relationship with God at that time in his life the record of Scripture conveys vividly detailed, **“And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.”**

In other words, his heart was “right;” his heart was “pure.” Authentically, his life was radiantly beaming with “integrity of heart.”

Again, note the precision of the biblical commentary, **“And Solomon loved the LORD.”**

Indeed, likewise the Lord is certainly aware of our true expression and degree of love toward Him.

As was bluntly posed to a newly restored Apostle Peter, what would be our present response to the question he was forced to honestly confront?

What is our present response to the Lord’s critically probing question, **“lovest thou me more than these?”** (Jn. 21:15)

Does not that simple, but powerful inquiry causes an uneasy tremor to resonate down to the inner core of your being?

If not, we should immediately fall down prostrate upon our faces knees and passionately cry out to God because we have

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become paralyzed, crippled and debilitated by the serious spiritual heart malady of pride or indifference.

The question should make us referentially and fearfully quake within because who among us can declare as did our Savior, **“for I do always those things that please him.”** (Jn. 8:29b)

With respect to us (our present progressive state), it is the case that **“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”** (Heb. 12:4)

Even the Apostle Paul plainly recognized in **Philippians 3:12**, **“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.”**

But too, we should observe that even on this momentous occasion the Lord saw the germinating seeds of this condition lurking in an unseen background in the innermost chambers of Solomon’s heart.



## SESSION THREE

# KEYNOTE TOUCH POINTS

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## WALKING IN INTEGRITY

### STUDY TEXT (4)

Deuteronomy 8:10-14, 19-20 (KJV)

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**Deuteronomy 8:10** When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

**11** Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

**12** Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

**13** And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

**14** Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

**Deuteronomy 8:19** And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

**20** As the nations which the Lord destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God.

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## LESSON FOUR

# 4

# BEWARE

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**FOCUS TEXT:** Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day.

Deuteronomy 8:11 (KJV)

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Unfortunately, it is too commonly the case that rarely are we able to continually appreciate the lavishly bestowed blessings of divine grace during season of sunshine and plenty.

Case and point, from the outset of His dealings with the generations of the redeemed, the Lord has had to repeatedly warn us against taking the bountiful blessings of grace for granted.

In **Deuteronomy 8:10-11** He left these timeless, precept words on the pages of the eternal record for all subsequent generations of the redeemed to hear and heed: **“When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.**

**“Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:”**

Yes, indeed at times each of us are prone to foolishly begin to devalue and depreciated the person of Holy God; then falter and waiver in our commitment of faithfulness to him; and subsequently in turn forget to appreciate the grand magnitude of love the Lord has shown toward us which has been routinely demonstrated through His outpouring of bountiful blessings on our lives.

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But too, we should clearly understand that when we ignorantly travel down that path of wayward transgression, despite our folly, we can also be sure that that same measure of correcting love will seek us out to return back (i.e. often painfully) to the exalted, appointed place to which we have been effectually “called” by His sending rectifying seasons of spiritual purging and purification into the circle of our lives.

David confessed in **Psalms 119:67**, **“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.”**

Moreover, the text of Hebrews 12:6-8 reminds us: **“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

**“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?**

**“But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”**

To be sure, we are not always experiencing season of spiritual purging and purification as a result of person transgression or infraction, but yet such developmental seasons are still used to wean us from our inherent focus on the “things of this life,” and remind redirect us to remember that we are a heavenly people who destined for eternal life and its associated blessing to be experienced in the presence of the Lord Jesus.

Again, David testified in **Psalms 119:71** and **75**, **“It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. “**

**“I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. “**

Undoubtedly, these words will most likely sound strange in the ears of many 21st Century Christ followers who have been used to hearing that the Lord is happy with our lives just the way they are and is not interested in molding it for His purposes but is concerned about us fulfilling our own self whims and dreams.

## LESSON FOUR

Very little is taught these days from the sacred pulpit regarding the crucially important biblical principles of spiritual purification and sanctification.

Sadly, too many of us (Christ followers) arguably believe that our life path can be diverted around the appointed seasons of spiritual purging and purification.

Yet, in the opening text of 1 Peter the issue is addressed promptly and directly; and the relevant importance of understanding and application of these bible truths is duly portrayed in the Salvation Experience of every believer.

Peter wrote to a church generation that it was wholly and clearly rejected by their culture. The evident fact of the presence of widespread persecution in their lives attested to this hardship reality.

Their culture reacted to them in the same fashion as was described by the Lord Jesus Christ. In **John 15:18-19** He explained to every redeemed generation: **“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.**

**“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”**

However, in our contemporary era, even though the disposition of the fallen culture toward the Church has not changed, somehow, we generally believe that we can intermingle with it without experiencing the reach of divine consequences.

Let us pause here. Given the posture of the present personal worldview, do we feel ourselves compelled to silently raise the voice of protest to the timeless affirmations emphatically declared by the Exalted Savior?

Are we secretly protesting in hearts because we view the world, and its “things” from a totally different perspective?

## WALKING IN INTEGRITY

Have we heartily made a vested interest in its things, or have set our heart on its pursuits because we believe (as others have argued) that our inheritance is here for now, and also in Heaven when we pass back to “ashes to ashes, and dust to dust?”

Is this belief espoused because of the public proclamation of the tenants of changing humanism that is routinely touted by the “who’s who” of our present society?

Do we not join in the affirmation of the inspired scriptural writer who declared in **Hebrews 13:14**, “**For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come?**”

Emphasizing the necessity of biblically decreed spiritual separation, he afore appealed in **verse 13:13**, “**Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.**”

Hopefully, we are not numbered among the companies of the confused and deceived.

Regarding the course of this fallen world, the Lord has already warned in **Luke 21:34-35**, “**And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.**

“**For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.**”

Indeed, at times (**1 Pet. 1:6,7**) we must enter seasons of spiritual purging and purification; but, as the Apostle Peter reminds us, we have been bequeathed enduring and eternal treasure as we perpetually abide in the royal circle of the Living Lord.

## LESSON FOUR

# KEYNOTE TOUCH POINTS

[illegible]

## WALKING IN INTEGRITY

### STUDY TEXT (5)

Colossians 1:9-12; Ephesians 1:18 (KJV)

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**Colossian 1:9** For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

**10** That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**11** Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

**12** Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

**Ephesians 1:18** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

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## LESSON FIVE

# 5

## THE FULLER VISION

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**FOCUS TEXT:** For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

**Colossians 1:10 (KJV)**

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Before we (Christ followers) can become useful servant for the Lord, we must first begin to learn and understand that which has been identified in Scripture as **“the knowledge for his will.”**

Hence, here in the opening words of this inspired epistle, we observe the keynote reason for which Apostle Paul had passionately prayed for the Colossians believers.

Notably, the Spirit of God did not use him to be the primary person to evangelize this particular assembly; however, that fact did not diminish the Apostle’s love and concern for them in the slightest.

In fact, joyfully he inclusively expressed to them in **verses 3-4:** **“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,**

**“Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,**

**“For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”**

That is, fully embraced them as fellow **“partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;”** rightly because the signature evidence of their spiritual transformation was visibly manifest.

## WALKING IN INTEGRITY

Namely, they had fully demonstrated true love for God, and equally, endearing love and concern for the welfare of others that are numbered among “the redeemed.”

In **1 John 4:7-8** this fundamental validating bible truth is affirmed in the divine proclamation: **“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.**

**“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”**

Then, further clarifies in **verses 20-21**: **“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?**

**“And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”**

Hence, we are shown the Spirit’s bond of unifying connectivity that should be visibly demonstrated among all who have been truly “redeemed by the blood of the lamb.”

Moreover, as evidenced by the Spirit’s direction given to Apostle Paul to record and dispatch the vital, unique teachings of redemptive truth that are found in this inspired letter, we observe that he had fully assumed the role and responsibility (i.e., my brother’s keeper) of instructing them in the Word of God as well.

## A PRIMARY ESSENTIAL

In pastorally nurturing fashion, in one the keynote spiritual prayers regarding the spirit-life of every Christ follower, we observe that foremost the Apostle Paul earnest prayed that four (4) fundamental spiritual essentials would become centrally evident in the life of the lives of “the redeemed” congregation.

Particularly, on their (our) behalf, he petitioned for the heavenly blessings:

## LESSON FIVE

- "that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
- "that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing
- "being fruitful in every good work"
- "increasing in the knowledge of God"

### SPIRITUAL WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

The importance of this initial key spiritual trait in development of the spiritual life of the Christ follower is shown to us in **1 Peter 2:2** that charges us: **"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."**

And, in **Colossians 3:16a**, we are instructed: **"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom."**

Note again in **verse 9**, "that ye might be filled." Undoubtedly, this highlights a very important point of emphasis.

Notice, that he did just not mere refer to the limiting conditions of mere "awareness" or just alluded to becoming merely intellectually knowledge able of biblical facts, or even the fundamentals of the Christian faith (albeit which is important also).

The essential point being strongly stressed is similarly to that which was declared in **Ephesians 1:18a**, where he also petitioned Heaven on the behalf of their assembly (and us) **that "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling."**

Thus, in both instances the reference is to the Christ follower attaining a life-transforming measure of spiritual wisdom and knowledge that will completely alter their life perspective and broader worldview by progressively bringing both in alignment with that of Scripture.

## WALKING IN INTEGRITY

Insightfully, the broader truth principle that should impact the life of the Christ follower is stressed in **Jeremiah 9:23-24**, where the Lord God declared through the inspired pen of the holy prophet: “**Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:**

**“But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”**

### •Beyond the Entrance into Redemption

Now to be clear, our (Christ followers) spiritual vision has already been supernaturally changed through the redemptive works of the Gospel in our lives.

Alluding to this divine prerequisite, the Lord Jesus affirmed to a sincere seeker in **John 3:3b**, “**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, ‘Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”**

Moreover, in **Ephesians 1:13** explained our miraculous redemptive experience thus: “**In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.”**

## A BROADER AND FULLER VISION

Assuredly that which is being reference in the keynote text of **Colossian 1:9** does include knowledge pertaining to our wonderous understanding to the grand redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ; but also, it peers far beyond toward the pending pinnacle period when He comes to sit upon the exalted throne of His glory.

This specific point of reference is showcased in **Ephesians 1: 9-10** that amazingly detailed: “**Having made known unto us the**

## LESSON FIVE

mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

**“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.”**

Essentially this is the climactic moment in the future redemptive history that is in view. Also, which should be the central focus of the hearts and lives of every Christ follower.

Hence, in **Colossians 3:1**, we are duly charged: **“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

**“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**

**“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”**

However, as it has been the case across the span of redemptive history as cited in **Jeremiah 8:8-9**, “How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain.

**“The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?”**

# KEYNOTE TOUCH POINTS

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## LESSON FIVE