

# Major Themes in Christianity



**Understanding and  
Living Christ's Teachings**

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# Introduction

At its heart, Biblical Christianity is very straight forward. There is only one “rule book” to follow, and that is the Bible – exactly as it is written, with no add-ons, amendments, or substitutions. And critical to our faith is the Bible’s guarantee of an eternal life in the kingdom of God (what we call salvation). All you need to do is fully accept and firmly believe, with an abiding and repentant faith, in the Gospel of Jesus Christ: that Jesus Christ died on our behalf to pay the penalty for our sins and rose again on the third day, showing us that eternal life is indeed possible. That’s all, nothing more; and yes, it is really that simple. We know this because this guarantee is clearly and frequently stated in the Bible. But – and there is always a “but” isn’t there –our acceptance and our belief must be genuine. We may be able to fake out a lot of people, but God won’t be one of them.

Our belief in Jesus Christ must be real and it must be sincere. Yes, Jesus Christ died on the cross to forgive all sins, once for all and forever (and yes, that includes yours); and this is a free gift from God to demonstrate His love for all of us. But, while Christ’s sinless blood sacrifice is sufficient to pay the penalty for all sins, our belief in His Gospel must be genuine to allow our entry into God’s kingdom. And how do we know if our belief is genuine? Our repentance, our behaviors, and our deeds will demonstrate and mirror our sincerity. We cannot “sincerely believe in Christ” and “knowingly, willingly and intentionally continue to sin over and over again without repenting”. The two are mutually exclusive. Must you be sinless? Of course not, for perfection is reserved only for God, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. But our faith in His Son must be sincere – and because He reads hearts, God will know when we mean it.

The following list summarizes the major themes of Biblical Christianity which, when understood and incorporated into who we are being, will transform our lives into ones that align with God’s will instead of our own. And when we are aligned with God, not only will our lives be blessed for eternity, but we will begin to experience in this life, Fruit of the Holy Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are God’s gifts to us when we choose to believe in His Son as our Lord and Savior and behave accordingly.

## Major Themes of Biblical Christianity

† Love
† God
† God’s Power
† God’s Will
† God’s Plan
† God’s Love
† Creation
† Jesus Christ
† The Holy Spirit
† God, Jesus & the Holy Spirit As One
† The Holy Bible
† The Kingdom of God
† Satan
† Sin
† Spiritual and Physical Realms
† Noah and the Ark / Rainbow Covenant
† The Old Covenant
† The New Covenant
† The Beatitudes
† The Gospel
† Repentance and A Repentant Faith
† Being Born Again   Losing Life to Gain Life

† Eternal Life
† Fruit of the Holy Spirit
† Faith
† Believing
† Prayer
† Obedience
† The Church
† Fellowship
† Ministry [Service]
† Witnessing   Sharing the Gospel
† Good Deeds & Rewards
† Demotion
† The First Become Last & the Last Become First
† Humility
† Forgiveness
† Managing God’s Gifts
† Giving
† The Cost of Being a Disciple
† False Prophets
† Resurrection
† Final Judgement   The Second Coming of Christ
† Appendix One: A Be • Do • Have Philosophy
† Appendix Two: What Repentance Looks Like

# Major Themes of Biblical Christianity

## Love

Yes, one might think that God would be the #1 theme of Biblical Christianity. We think differently. Christianity is about one's relationship with Jesus Christ and that relationship has love at its very core. This truth is evidenced by Jesus' two primary commandments:

*“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.’”* Matthew 22:36 – 40

Jesus further spoke of how we can exemplify our love for our neighbor when He said:

*“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:13

And, of course, by dying on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins in full so that they would be forgiven and our sins forgotten by God, Jesus did just that for us.

## God

God is the Almighty Creator of all things. He is the Great I AM and His power is unimaginable and incomprehensible. God only exists in the present tense because He has always been, and always will be, here and now.

#	Themes	Thoughts	Source
1.	God	God is eternal and immortal, yes. But in today's terminology, eternal often implies forever from this point on, i.e., it is a reference to the future and immortal means “will never die”. With respect to God, eternal and immortal is often thought of as being here from the start and lasting forever. But it is vital to understand and accept that GOD is actually timeless. He existed prior to all creation as He alone created it and He will be here forever after creation. This belief is absolutely critical to understanding who God is.	-
2.	God	God is a benevolent and loving God – especially toward His creations. But God will not tolerate sin and will punish accordingly. His punishment, though harsh at times, will always be a just punishment. In God, there is no unrighteousness.	-
3.	God	God knows all, including the future, for He created it. God is ALL and is everywhere and always has been and always will be everywhere. He is omni-present, omni-potent, omni-dimensional, eternal, unlimited by deed, knowledge, time and space. God is perfect.	-
4.	God	The unexplainable is often God's best work.	-
5.	God	God knows of our future sins and He also knows what is in our hearts.	-
6.	God	God was there before the beginning and will be there after the end, for in God, there is no end.	-

## God's Power

God is a power without limits.

#	Themes	Thoughts	Source
7.	God's Power	<i>“But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, ‘I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.’”</i>	Matthew 26:63 – 64
8.	God's Power	<i>“And looking at them Jesus said to them, ‘With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”</i>	Matthew 19:26

#	Themes	Thoughts	Source
9.	God's Power	While God can see through the eyes of man, man cannot see through the eyes of God. We should not fool ourselves believing we can fully understand God and His true power, or even come close. Nor should we seek to explain God through the knowledge of man for man's knowledge is limited and God's knowledge is not.	-
10.	God's Power	As bright as man may get, his science will never be an adequate substitute for God because science can only explain what is perceived by man, while God knows all.	-

## God's Will

All activity is the outcome of God's will.

11.	God's Will	<i>"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."</i>	Romans 12:2
12.	God's Will	<i>"For this is the will of God, your sanctification."</i> (sanctification mean to be set apart and made Holy)	1 Thessalonians 4:3A
13.	God's Will	God's will is the only will that shall be done for He is sovereign over all. Any other will, including our own, will never prevail; and if you think you are following your will, think again.	-
14.	God's Will	God's will is the source of all that happens in our lives. The good is easy to attribute to God. The bad could be God's way of telling us we are not living according to His will. He sometimes uses the bad to test our faith or to teach us how to endure as He may have important plans for us.	-
15.	God's Will	We do not need to know God's will in order to accept and obey it. We need just trust that His will works and that it is the only will that works. Nor do we need to know why He wills something, because our trust in Him should be complete.	-
16.	God's Will	When praying in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion, even Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God in the flesh, acknowledged that God the Father's will was paramount: <i>"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."</i>	Luke 22:42

## God's Plan

17.	God's Plan	God has a plan for all that is including each and every one of us. Only He knows our outcome.	-
18.	God's Plan	God's plan is divine. It has no consequences, just Truth.	-
19.	God's Plan	Because He knows all, including the future, God will always provide what is best for us, based on His will, not our wishes. What befalls us is by God's divine design and is either for our own good, or for His purpose.	-
20.	God's Plan	Live your life knowing God's plan is always at play and you will fear not. Fear often results when you abandon God and believe that you are living your plan, not His.	-

## God's Love

21.	God's Love	<i>"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."</i>	John 3:16
22.	God's Love	<i>"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."</i>	Romans 5:8
23.	God's Love	<i>"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."</i>	Psalms 23:6

## Creation

Biblical Christians believe that God created the heavens and the earth – and all things outside and in between – including all living and non-living things. This process (Creation) is described in Genesis, the first book in the Bible. When we use the word "all", we mean both the things that man can see and that which man cannot see. Biblical

Christians also believe that all things created, and to be created, were done so with an intelligent, divine design, and not randomly or by accident. Below is a very brief summary of Creation as presented in Genesis 1 – 2:3. We also have included an important caveat when contemplating Creation.

24.	Creation Caveat	<p>As described above, God’s power is unimaginable and incomprehensible, and it is through this lens that we believe Creation should be viewed. We think it is the height of man’s arrogance to believe that man can explain Creation better than God can. First of all, man’s power and intelligence is limited while God’s is not. Secondly, man wasn’t even there when it happened – and God was. Lastly, man relies on science to explain creation; but science can only explain what man has already discovered. The fact that man cannot perceive something is not proof it doesn’t exist. However, God knows all, and since He created it, He needs no explanation.</p> <p>The sense that the science of man is better equipped than the power of God to explain Creation is pure nonsense.</p>	-
25.	Creation	<p><b>Day 1: God created light.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>“The earth was formless and void.”</i> (It either did not yet exist or had no structure.)</li> <li>- <i>“And darkness was over the surface of the deep.”</i> (All was dark except for God and the Spirit of God)</li> <li>- <i>“And the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”</i> (Note: God was already present, as were the waters and the Spirit of God<sup>1</sup>)</li> <li>- <i>“Then God created light and then He separated the light from the darkness and called the light day and darkness night.”</i></li> </ul> <p><sup>1</sup> It is possible the term “waters” may not be referring to the liquid we know as water.</p>	Genesis 1:1 – 5
26.	Creation	<p><b>Day 2: God created heaven.</b></p> <p>God created an expanse in the midst of the waters and let it separate the waters from the waters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>God called the expanse</i> (in the midst of the waters) <i>heaven</i>. (The original Hebrew text used the plural heavens)</li> </ul>	Genesis 1:6 – 8
27.	Creation	<p><b>Day 3: God created dry land, the seas, vegetation and fruit trees with seeds.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God gathered the waters below the expanse into one place and had the dry land appear.</li> <li>- God called the dry land earth and He gathered the waters on earth as the seas.</li> <li>- God created vegetation with seeds and also fruit trees with seeds.</li> </ul>	Genesis 1:9 – 13
28.	Creation	<p><b>Day 4: God created the stars, earth’s sun and earth’s moon.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God created two lights in the expanse of the sky to shine on the earth and to separate the day from the night and to indicate the seasons and days and years.</li> <li>- The greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night.</li> <li>- God also created the stars.</li> </ul>	Genesis 1:14 – 19
29.	Creation	<p><b>Day 5: God created the living creatures of the waters and birds of the air.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God said for them to be fruitful and multiply after their own kind.</li> </ul>	Genesis 1:20 – 23
30.	Creation	<p><b>Day 6: God made the living creatures that walked and crawled on the earth and He created man in His own image – male and female.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God said for the beasts to be fruitful and multiply after their own kind.</li> <li>- <i>“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”</i></li> </ul> <p>Note: God created man as genders that were made in His image – an image which we believe to be sinless and complete with intellect, will and emotion. Remember, God was not created in the image of man but rather man was created in the image of God. We further believe that in these verses, “man” is a reference to humanity.</p>	Genesis 1:24 – 31
31.	Creation	<p><b>Day 7: God rested</b></p>	Genesis 2:1 – 3

Note: We present a more detailed description of Genesis and how it aligns with science in our PDF, "[Scripture and Science, How Well Do They Relate?](#)"

## Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the second God-form of the Holy Trinity, the personal incarnation of the invisible God, and He existed with God, as Spirit, from the beginning. Jesus was later born as God in the flesh – conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary. His mission was to free humanity from the burden of its sins and to demonstrate the availability of eternal life for those who believe in Him. Also, through His teachings, we can learn how to live a righteous life with the help of the Holy Spirit.

32.	Jesus Christ	<p><b>Jesus was with God from the beginning.</b></p> <p><i>"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."</i></p> <p><i>"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."</i></p> <p><i>"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."</i></p> <p><i>"Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."</i></p>	<p>John 1:1-5</p> <p>John 1:14</p> <p>John 17:4 – 5</p> <p>John 17:24</p>
33.	Jesus Christ	<p><b>The God-man – 100% Man and 100% God.</b></p> <p><i>"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."</i></p>	Colossians 2:9
34.	Jesus Christ	<p><b>I And The Father Are One</b></p> <p><i>"Jesus answered them, 'I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'"</i></p>	John 10:25 – :30
35.	Jesus Christ	<p><b>Jesus and God are two in one.</b></p> <p><i>"He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me."</i></p> <p><i>"Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"</i></p>	<p>John 12:45</p> <p>John 14:8 – 9</p>
36.	Jesus Christ	<p><b>God is the great I AM. So, too, is Jesus.</b></p> <p><i>"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.'"</i></p> <p><i>"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am (He), you will die in your sins."</i></p> <p><i>"So Jesus said, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am (He), and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.'"</i></p> <p><i>"From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He."</i></p> <p><i>"They answered Him, 'Jesus the Nazarene.' He said to them, 'I am He.' And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So when He said to them, 'I am He,' they drew back and fell to the ground. Therefore He again asked them, 'Whom do you seek?' And they said, 'Jesus the Nazarene.'" Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way.'"</i></p>	<p>John 8:58</p> <p>John 8:17 – 18</p> <p>John 8:24</p> <p>John 8:28</p> <p>John 13:19</p> <p>John 18:5-8</p>



37.	Jesus Christ	<p><i>Jesus is the only begotten Son of God – begotten meaning “fathered by”</i></p> <p><i>“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”</i></p>	John 3:16
38.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus is the only way and the only door to heaven.</p> <p><i>“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”</i></p> <p><i>“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”</i></p>	John 14:6 John 10:9
39.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus is the Light of the World.</p> <p><i>“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of [eternal] life.’”</i></p>	John 8:12
40.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus speaks for God.</p> <p><i>“And Jesus cried out and said, ‘He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.’”</i></p>	John 12:44 – 50
41.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus is our one and only Savior, for He is the Messiah. (Messiah means “the anointed one”)</p> <p><i>“Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.”</i></p>	Matthew 1:16
42.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.</p> <p><i>“These will wage war against the Lamb [Christ], and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”</i></p>	Revelation 17:14
43.	Jesus Christ	<p>The eternal Son of God</p> <p><i>“And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”</i></p>	1 John 5:20
44.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus will Judge the non-believers.</p> <p><i>“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into [eternal] life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has [eternal] life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have [eternal] life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”</i></p>	John 5:22 – 30
45.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus is the Bread of Life.</p> <p><i>“Jesus then said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives [eternal] life to the world.’ Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, always give us this bread.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of [eternal] life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.’”</i></p>	John 6:32 – 35



46.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus is the Good Shepard.</p> <p><i>“So Jesus said to them again, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have [eternal] life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.’”</i></p>	John 10:7 – 18
47.	Jesus Christ	<p><b>The Lamb of God</b> (spoken by John the Baptist about Jesus Christ)</p> <p><i>“The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.’ John testified saying, ‘I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.’”</i></p>	John 1:29 – 34
48.	Jesus Christ	<p><b>The Christ, Son of the Living God</b></p> <p><i>“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.’ Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.”</i></p>	Matthew 16:12 – 20
49.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus paid the ransom for our sins with His death.</p> <p><i>“For the wages of sin is death.”</i></p> <p><i>“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”</i></p> <p><i>“So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.</i></p>	Romans 6:23  1 Corinthians 15:3  Hebrews 9:28
50.	Jesus Christ	<p><b>He Who Speaks The Truth</b></p> <p><i>“They [the Pharisees] answered and said to Him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father.’ They said to Him, ‘We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.’”</i></p>	John 8:39 – 47

51.	Jesus Christ	<p>Jesus is both our Lord and Our God (spoken <i>after</i> the resurrection of Jesus)</p> <p><i>“But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.’ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have [eternal] life in His name.”</i></p>	<p>John 20:24 - 30</p>
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## The Holy Spirit

God presents Himself as a guide and helper to humanity through His Holy Spirit. Through our faith in God’s Son, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells within us to guide us toward a more righteous life and to help us fulfill God’s purpose for us.

52.	Holy Spirit	<p><i>“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”</i></p> <p>We receive the Holy Spirit and are born again when we repent, accept Jesus as our Savior, are baptized, and choose to believe in Him and His Gospel sincerely and wholeheartedly.</p>	<p>Acts 2:38  Pastor Jim</p>
53.	Holy Spirit	<p><i>“The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”</i></p>	<p>Genesis 1:2</p>
54.	Holy Spirit	<p><i>“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”</i></p> <p>You cannot enjoy the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and be guided by Him if you do not also believe in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Romans 8:9  -</p>
55.	Holy Spirit	<p><i>“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”</i></p> <p><i>“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you. If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.’”</i></p> <p>Jesus taught His Disciples, and the rest of us, that the Holy Spirit would guide, counsel and comfort those who follow Him. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ’s presence and power are multiplied in all who believe.</p>	<p>John 14:16 – 18  John 14:26 – 28  Pastor Jim</p>
56.	Holy Spirit	<p><i>“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”</i></p> <p>To fully understand all Jesus taught, we must know and trust the Holy Spirit to guide us and allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in us.</p>	<p>John 16:12 – 15  Pastor Jim</p>

57.	Holy Spirit	<i>“So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”</i>	John 20:19 – 23
58.	Holy Spirit	<i>“And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ‘Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?’ Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, ‘Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?’”</i>  This tells us that Jesus’ powers [in this case, reading people’s hearts] come from God’s Spirit dwelling in Him. Remember, Jesus is both God and Man.	Mark 2:5 – 8  -

## God, Jesus and The Holy Spirit Are One

Perhaps one of the hardest Christian themes to wrap our brains around is the Holy Trinity (or Triune God). While God is both Spirit and one single “power” or Deity, He manifests Himself in three distinct “persons”, each having their own purpose: God the Father (Creator), God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. God is all three and all three are God, for there is only one true God. Note: We use the term “person” not to signify physical attributes but to signify the presence of intellect, will and emotion.

59.	God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit Are One	<i>“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us. Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am He.”</i>	John 4:23-26
60.		<i>“I and the Father are one.”</i>	John 10:30
61.		<i>“And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ‘Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?’ Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, ‘Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?’”</i>  <i>This tells us that Jesus’ powers (in this case, reading people’s hearts) come from God’s Spirit dwelling in Him and that He, too, is God and capable of forgiving sins.</i>	Mark 2:5 – 8  -

## The Holy Bible

The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and occasionally metaphorical Word of God. There is only one Holy Bible, and it was written by men but authored by the Holy Spirit. If you are reading anything that is not in the Bible, you are not reading the Word of God.

62.	Holy Bible	<i>“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”</i>  <i>“And the Scripture cannot be broken.”</i>	II Timothy 3:16-17  John 10:35b
63.	Holy Bible	Let God’s Word, the Holy Bible, be the foundation of your life and your behavior.  <i>“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock [the Word of God]. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell – and great was its fall.”</i>	Pastor Jim  Matthew 7:24-27

64.	Holy Bible	<p>God's Word is not "contained in the Bible". God's Word is the Bible.</p> <p><i>"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>Matthew 5:17-19</p>
65.	Holy Bible	<p>The Bible came through men who were moved by the Holy Spirit to speak and write the Word of God.</p> <p><i>"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."</i></p> <p><i>"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>II Peter 1:20-21</p> <p>John 14:25 – 26</p>
66.	Holy Bible	<p>You must believe in God for His word (the Bible) to work in you.</p> <p><i>"For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe."</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>I Thessalonians 2:13</p>
67.	Holy Bible	<p>Our mind is renewed when we read and think about the Word of God. Only then will we be transformed, or changed from the inside out, so that we can look at the various choices life offers us, and choose from among those choices that which is God's will for us.</p> <p><i>"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>Romans 12:1-2</p>
68.	Holy Bible	<p>The Bible is like food to a baby – it is what causes us to grow and mature in our relationship to Christ. Without it, we starve and fail to thrive. With it, we more than survive; we grow to be more like Christ. The Word of God – the Word of Christ – should richly dwell within us, and when it does, the result will be demonstrated by how we speak to and love one another.</p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p>
69.	Holy Bible	<p>The truth will set you free.</p> <p><i>"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'"</i></p>	<p>-</p> <p>John 8:31 – 8:32</p>
70.	Holy Bible	<p><i>"And He was saying to them, 'Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides. For whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.'"</i></p> <p>The more our faith in Jesus grows and the practice of His righteousness increases, the better we will understand His message. For those who have no faith, all is lost.</p>	<p>Mark 4:24 – 25</p>

## The Kingdom of God

71.	The Kingdom of God	<p><i>"So He was saying, 'What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.' And again He said, 'To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.'"</i></p>	<p>Luke 13:18 – 21</p>
72.	The Kingdom of God	<p><i>"And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them. But Jesus called for them, saying, 'Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.'"</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Children are humble, accepting, trusting, innocent, dependent and obedient.</p>	<p>Luke 18:15 – 17</p>

73.	The Kingdom of God	<p>The Kingdom of God contains the harvest of believing brethren.</p> <p><i>“And He was saying, ‘The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’”</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>Mark 4:26 – 29</p>
74.	The Kingdom of God	<p>The Kingdom of God is reserved for those who have submitted all of themselves and their possessions to God.</p> <p><i>“As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments,’ Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.” And he said to Him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.’ Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, ‘One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!’”</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>Mark 10:17 – 23</p>
75.	The Kingdom of God	<p><i>“Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. Again he sent out other slaves saying,’ Tell those who have been invited, ‘Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.’” But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. Then he said to his slaves,’ The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.’” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him,’ Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’” And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants,’ Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> God invites everyone to join His kingdom (as Jesus died to pay the penalty for everyone’s sins), but He only rewards entry to those who choose, through an obedient, abiding and repentant faith, to follow His Son. The traditional wedding attire is the righteousness one needs to enter God’s kingdom – which Christ made available to all of us by paying the ransom for our sins through His death on the cross. However, we must choose to wear the wedding attire, i.e., we must adopt and maintain an obedient, abiding and repentant faith in Jesus so that His Holy Spirit will dwell in us and lead us on the path to righteousness.</p>	<p>Matthew 22:1 – 14</p>

## Satan

Satan, once known as the angel Lucifer, was one of God’s most beautiful and most powerful angels in heaven. But Satan’s love of his beauty and power led him to think he was more important than God, and for this blasphemy, God banished him from residing in heaven and made him the ruler of the sin-natured world of the flesh on earth. Satan, speaking in the form of a serpent, deceived Eve into eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (in the Garden of Eden) – an act she had been commanded by God never to do. As a result of violating God’s command, man was evicted from the Garden of Eden and banished to the now sin-natured world of the flesh. Since we currently reside in this sin-natured flesh world, we are always subjected to and susceptible to Satan’s deceptions, lies and counterfeits.



76.	Satan	<i>“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart,” I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.”</i>	Isaiah 14:12 – 15
77.	Satan	<i>“And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.’”</i> When Jesus spoke to Peter, He was actually addressing Satan who had taken over Peter’s tongue. Peter (inspired by Satan) was trying to convince Jesus not to be taken by the high priests for crucifixion, because it was Jesus’ resurrection and defeat of death that weakened Satan.	Mark 8:31 – 33
78.	Satan	<i>“And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him [Jesus] to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. So he consented, and began seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the crowd.”</i>	Luke 22:3 - 6
79.	Satan	<i>“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”</i>	James 4:7
80.	Satan	Jesus talks to Satan <i>“‘Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.’ But he said to Him, ‘Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!’ And He said, ‘I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.’”</i>	Luke 22:31 – 34

## Sin

We sin by defying God’s word, either in thought or action, and by failing to keep His commandments. Because we are of the flesh, sin comes naturally. We must resist it – and Satan – as we choose instead to follow Christ. Why must we fight sin? Because it separates us from God and that is Satan’s objective. Here are some of Satan’s “better” deceptions that lead to sin:

- Disobeying God as Eve did when she ate the forbidden fruit – because Satan (the serpent) deceived Eve into thinking that God would not punish her, and that by eating the fruit, she would become like God;
- Killing man – which Cain did to his brother Abel. (Cain and Abel were the first two children of Adam and Eve);
- Believing that one’s abundance does not come from God – Satan trying to deceive us into thinking that we are the source of good, not God;
- Not trusting that God will fulfill His covenants – Satan trying to convince us that God does not keep His promises and that man should therefore only trust himself;
- Not believing in the Gospel – Satan does not want us to believe that Jesus forgave our sins and made available to us eternal life in the kingdom of God;
- Idolatry – believing in false gods and prophets (like fame and fortune, sex and drugs and cult leaders). This is Satan’s go-to scheme to separate us from God;
- Believing that good deeds alone will get us into heaven – another one of Satan’s deceptions to get us to believe that we do not need Jesus to get into heaven, but rather can get there on our own.

81.	Sin	<b>When one acts alone and in contradiction to God’s guidance and without His grace, his relationship with God is shattered. Acting alone and without God’s guidance is akin to disobeying God.</b>	Pastor Jim
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82.	Sin	<i>"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."</i>	Galatians 5:16-21
83.	Sin	<i>"Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish."</i>	Psalms 1
84.	Sin	What would cause a person to separate themselves from the word of God? Satan, temptation, persecution, worries of the world, deceitfulness of riches, jealousies, relying only on their own understanding and pursuing their will instead of God's.  Self-righteousness is Satan's secret sauce.	Pastor Jim  -
85.	Sin	<i>"Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."</i>	Matthew 12:31 – 32
86.	Sin	<i>"Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter [eternal] life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter [eternal] life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell."</i>	Matthew 18:7 – 9
87.	Sin	<i>"Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.'"</i>	John 8:34 – 8:36

## The Spiritual and Physical Realms

88.	The Spiritual and Physical Realms	<i>"Then God said, 'Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse heaven (the original Hebrew text used the plural heavens). And there was evening and there was morning, a second day."</i>	Genesis 1:6 – 8
89.	The Spiritual and Physical Realms	<i>"Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He [Jesus] answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or, "There it is!" For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.'"</i>  We believe Jesus is telling us that He, and the Spirit within Him, represents the Kingdom of God and that we will inherit His Kingdom if we choose to believe in Him as the Son of God and our Lord and Savior.	Luke 17:20 – 21
90.	The Spiritual and Physical Realms	<b>Jesus is not of this world</b> <i>"And He was saying to them, 'You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He [God], you will die in your sins.' So they were saying to Him, 'Who are You?' Jesus said to them, 'What have I been saying to you from the beginning? I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.' They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He [God], and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.' As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him."</i>	John 8:23 – 30
91.	The Spiritual and Physical Realms	<i>"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.'"</i>	John 18:36

92.	The Spiritual and Physical Realms	<i>"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts."</i>	Isaiah 55:8 – 9
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## Noah, the Ark and the Flood

There came a time during earth's early history when God became incensed about how things were turning out, and as a result He sent a flood to cover the earth and destroy all living creatures thereon – except for Noah and his family and two of every living thing, male and female, which God commanded Noah to place in an ark that would survive the flood. We consider this to be a theme of Christianity as it demonstrates both God's power and His intolerance for wanton and willful disobedience.

93.	Noah, the Ark and the Flood	<i>"Then God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.'"</i>	Genesis 6:13 – 14
94.	Noah, the Ark and the Flood	<i>"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female."</i>	Genesis 6:18 – 19
95.	Noah, the Ark and the Flood	<i>"Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time. You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth. For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.' Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him."</i>	Genesis 7:1 – 5

## The Rainbow Covenant – God's Covenant with Noah

96.	God's Covenant With Noah	<i>"Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, 'Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' And God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.'"</i> The bow to which God refers to is, of course, the rainbow.	Genesis 9:8 – 9:17
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## The Old Covenant

The Old Covenant – of the Old Testament – was between God and the Jews, His chosen people. They were to abide by His Ten Commandments and other ordinances and offer blood sacrifices of clean animals. God would guide Moses in leading His chosen people to the Promised Land (Israel) and would protect and bless them.

97.	The Old Covenant	<i>"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven. You shall not make other gods besides Me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves. You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you.'"</i>	Exodus 20:22 – 24
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98.	The Old Covenant	<i>"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.' So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments."</i>	Exodus 34:27 – 28
99.	The Old Covenant	<i>"But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the Lord.' These are the statutes and ordinances and laws which the Lord established between Himself and the sons of Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai."</i>	Leviticus 26:45 – 46

## The New Covenant

The New Covenant is between Jesus Christ and all nations (peoples), promising the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in the kingdom of heaven for all who believe in and follow Him. It is a Covenant sealed with only one, permanent sacrifice – the sinless blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross – that will last for eternity.

100.	The New Covenant	<i>"And his [John the Baptist's] father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant — As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old — SALVATION FROM OUR ENEMIES, AND FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant, The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.'"</i>	Luke 1:67 – 75
101.	The New Covenant	<i>"And you, child, [John the Baptist] will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, To SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace."</i>	Luke 1:76 – 79
102.	The New Covenant	[During the Last Supper] <i>"And when He [Jesus] had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.'"</i>	Luke 22:19 – 20
103.	The New Covenant	<i>"While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.'"</i>	Matthew 26:26 – 28
104.	The New Covenant	<i>"For this reason He [Jesus] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."</i>	Hebrews 9:15
105.	The New Covenant	<i>"then He [Jesus] said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will.' He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."</i>	Hebrews 10:9 – 10
106.	The New Covenant	<i>"For by one offering He [Jesus] has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days,' says the Lord: 'I will put My laws upon their heart, And on their mind I will write them,' He then says, 'And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.' Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin."</i>	Hebrews 10:14 – 18

## The Gospel

The Gospel ranks right behind Love as a fundamental tenet of Christianity. Simply put, you cannot believe in Jesus Christ or salvation without also fully believing in the Gospel.

107.	The Gospel	<i>"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."</i>	I Corinthians 15: 1-4
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108.	The Gospel	And He said to them, <b>‘Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance [in exchange] for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.’</b>	Luke 24:46-47
109.	The Gospel	“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”	I Peter 3:18

## The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes, or desired ways of being in the Kingdom of Heaven, were presented by Jesus Christ during His Sermon on the Mount.

110.	The Beatitudes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.</i></li> <li>7. <i>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.</i></li> <li>8. <i>Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i></li> <li>9. <i>Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.</i></li> <li>10. <i>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.</i></li> </ol>	Matthew 5:3 – 12
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## Repent and A Repentant Faith

111.	Repent	To repent is to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life; and if a sin is committed, to feel regret, sorrow. Repentance is the process of repenting.	Webster Dictionary
112.	Repent	Faith and repentance are two sides of the same coin. Choosing to follow Jesus and live His Word in your life, turning away from sin and turning towards God as a changed life embracing new behaviors, demonstrates your repentance.	Pastor Jim -
113.	Repent	Changing my life from what I think is right to what Jesus says is right. Believing in Christ changes your life from the inside out	- Pastor Jim
114.	Repent	<i>“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”</i>	II Corinthians 5:17
115.	Repent	<i>“And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”</i>	Luke 5:31 – 32
116.	Repent	<i>“So he [John the Baptist] began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’”</i>	Luke 3:7 – 9
117.	Repent	<i>“Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel’.”</i>	Mark 1:14 – 1:15
118.	Repent	The more I hang on to me, the less I can hold on to God	-
119.	Repent	Repentance is choosing to do God’s thing instead of my own thing.	Pastor Jim
120.	Repent	<i>“... and He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.’”</i>	Luke 24:46 – 47

121.	Repent	<i>“Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’”</i>	Luke 13:1 – 5
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## Being Born Again | Losing a Life to Gain a Life

Losing a life to gain a life is certainly a difficult concept to grasp. When Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born again to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:1-21), Jesus is telling Nicodemus (and us) that we must be prepared to give up our old sin-natured ways, i.e., symbolically die to sin, so that we may be re-born into a new life, as a new creature – one guided by Christ’s sinless righteousness. So, God, through His Son Jesus, gives us a choice: keep our old life and die in our sins or give up our sin-natured self and seek His Son’s righteousness. When we do the latter, we lose our old life and gain a new one – we become a new creature in Christ - and in addition, we gain a new life of eternity in God’s kingdom. Note: We have added text to the following Scripture verses to help with understanding them.

122.	Born Again Losing a Life to Gain a Life	Our repentance requires us to renounce and die to sin so that we may be born again as a new life in Jesus Christ. Without repentance we will not be saved and will forfeit God’s gift of eternal life in His kingdom as a consequence. <i>“Whoever seeks to keep his [sinful] life will lose it [by forfeiting God’s gift of eternal life], and whoever loses his [old] life [by dying to sin] will preserve it [by gaining God’s gift of eternal life].”</i>	Luke 17:33
		<i>“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”</i>	John 3:3
123.	Born Again Losing a Life to Gain a Life	Christ died on our behalf to pay the penalty for our sins, once and forever; and then He gave us the Holy Spirit to help us in our human struggle to remain free of the power of the sin nature which previously was master over our life. <i>“Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died [and been reborn into a life in Christ] is freed from sin.”</i>	Pastor Jim  Romans 6:6 – 7
		<i>“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the [sin-natured] world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”</i>	John 14:16 – 17
124.	Born Again Losing a Life to Gain a Life	You must yield and surrender yourself to the Spirit’s influence. <i>“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”</i>	Pastor Jim  Galatians 2:20
125.	Born Again Losing a Life to Gain a Life	I must die to sin and bury my self-righteousness to be born again into a new life in Jesus. <i>“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross [having been symbolically crucified when choosing to die to sin] and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his [old] life will lose it [by forfeiting God’s gift of eternal life in His kingdom]; but whoever loses his [old sin-natured] life for My sake [by renouncing sin to be re-born into a life seeking My righteousness] will find it [through God’s gift of eternal life]. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?’”</i>	Matthew 16:24 – 26



126.	Born Again Losing a Life to Gain a Life	I must ask to be a new man when choosing to follow Jesus, acknowledging the Gospel and Jesus as God and agreeing to follow His word. If nothing changes in my life, then I am not a new man.  <i>"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."</i>	Pastor Jim  Philippians 2:12-13
127.	Born Again Losing a Life to Gain a Life	<i>"And Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.'"</i>	John 12:23 – 26

## Salvation (Being Saved)

Our salvation – being granted eternal life in the kingdom of God (heaven) versus eternal damnation in the fiery lake of hell – is a gift from God. He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our having sinned, so we would not have to pay the penalty ourselves. This gift from God is given only if we choose to believe in and follow His Son with a repentant, obedient and abiding faith. When Romans 6:23 tells us that *"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our lord"*, it is telling us that sin leads to a spiritual death – one that results in our forfeiting God's gift of an eternal life in His kingdom.

128.	Salvation	A repentant faith requires turning away from sin and our own self-centeredness, undergoing an unconditional surrender of ourselves to Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit and turning our lives over to, and trusting in, Christ's direction and control.	-
129.	Salvation	<i>"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."</i>	John 3:16
130.	Salvation	<i>"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'"</i>	John 14:6
131.	Salvation	<i>"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."</i> It is by God's grace through our faith in Jesus – and not by our good works – that we are saved.	Ephesians 2:8
132.	Salvation	<i>"And He said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'"</i>	Luke 7:50
133.	Salvation	Our sincere belief in Christ and the keeping of His commandments is our access through the narrow gate. <i>"Enter [into heaven] through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction [hell], and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to [eternal] life, and there are few who find it."</i>	Matthew 7:13 – 14
134.	Salvation	<i>"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."</i>	Mark 16:16
135.	Salvation	<i>"You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."</i> We should never abandon our faith in Christ.	Matthew 10:22
136.	Salvation	<i>"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."</i> Apostle Peter to the religious leaders.	Acts 4:12
137.	Salvation	<i>"For this reason He [Jesus Christ] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions [sins] that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."</i>	Hebrews 9:15



## Eternal Life

138.	Eternal Life	<i>“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”</i>	John 3:35-36
139.	Eternal Life	<i>“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water [from Jacob’s well] will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.’”</i>	John 4:13-15
140.	Eternal Life	<i>“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”</i>	John 5:24
141.	Eternal Life	<i>“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”</i>	John 6:37 – 40
142.	Eternal Life	<i>“Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.’”</i>	John 17:1 – 3
143.	Eternal Life	<i>“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.”</i> (Because they will experience eternal life.)	John 8:51
144.	Eternal Life	<i>“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.’ Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, ‘How can this man give us His flesh to eat?’ So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”</i>  Jesus is telling us that believing in Him – and keeping His word by following His teachings – should become the substance of our lives. This is also captured in the taking of Holy Communion. (See also The New Covenant theme on page 15)	John 6:47 – 58
145.	Eternal Life	<i>“And someone came to Him and said, ‘Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?’ And He said to him, ‘Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.’”</i>	Matthew 19:16 – 17

## Fruit of the Holy Spirit

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is what we can expect to enjoy if we choose to repent, believe in Christ, and turn our lives over to Him, so that His Holy Spirit can live within us. Please review our PDF documents on Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

146.	Fruit of the Holy Spirit	<i>“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance [patience], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; against these things there is no law.”</i>  When we earnestly seek Christ’s righteousness and begin to keep His commandments, we will start to mirror His behavior, and this will automatically begin bringing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit into our lives. Who doesn’t want a life filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?	Galatians 5:22-23
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## Faith

Faith is a mysterious thing as it lives in the heart but is born of what the mind is willing to trust. Faith is something we either have or don't have, as we cannot buy half a loaf of faith. And faith is critical to biblical Christianity because with God, not all things can be known by man, and those things must be trusted in by faith.

147.	Faith	Faith in God trumps fear and cannot live in language as it comes from the heart and not the head. But fear often forces us to choose what we know over what we feel. This is almost always a mistake.	-
148.	Faith	Faith is what you have when you no longer need proof to support your belief.	-
149.	Faith	Here is a great story to demonstrate the essence of faith. Picture an old man with a wheelbarrow taking a load of dirt from one side of Niagara Falls to the other, walking over the Falls using only a thick rope. Another man watches in awe as the dirt mover takes one load after another. After transferring about 30 loads of dirt from one side of the Falls to the other, the dirt mover turns to the other man and asks him, do you trust me to take one more load of dirt over? The man says, 'After seeing you do this 30 times without fail, I have no doubt you can do it one more time.' The old man dumps his load of dirt out of the wheelbarrow and says to the other man, "Jump in".	Anonymous
150.	Faith	<i>"And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; for she was saying to herself, 'If I only touch His garment, I will get well.' But Jesus turning and seeing her said, 'Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well.' At once the woman was made well."</i>	Matthew 9:20 – 22
151.	Faith	<i>"Now in the morning, when He was returning to the city, He became hungry. Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, 'No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you.' And at once the fig tree withered. Seeing this, the disciples were amazed and asked, 'How did the fig tree wither all at once?' And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and cast into the sea," it will happen."</i>	Matthew 21:18 – 22
152.	Faith	<i>"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction [evidence] of things not seen."</i>	Hebrews 11:1
153.	Faith	<i>"When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, 'Save us, Lord; we are perishing!' He said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?' Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, 'What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?'"</i>	Matthew 8:23 – 27
154.	Faith	<i>"As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!' When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They said to Him, 'Yes, Lord.' Then He touched their eyes, saying, 'It shall be done to you according to your faith.' And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: 'See that no one knows about this!'"</i>	Matthew 9:27 – 30
155.	Faith	<i>"Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter said to Him, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' And He said, 'Come!' And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, 'You are certainly God's Son!'"</i>	Matthew 14:22 – 33

156.	Faith	<i>"But He answered and said, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!' And He answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.' But she said, 'Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus said to her, 'O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed at once."</i>	Matthew 15:24 – 28
157.	Faith	<i>"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' And the Lord said, 'If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.'"</i>	Luke 17:5 – 6

## Believing

We trust with knowledge and believe with faith.

158.	Believing	Believing in Jesus is not an action or a mental propensity, but rather a permanent, emotional commitment combined with a perpetual feeling of relief – and that feeling is the Holy Spirit operating within us because we have chosen to believe in the Christ.	-
159.	Believing	<i>"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'"</i>	John 11:25 – 26
160.	Believing	<i>"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.'"</i>	John 6:35 – 40
161.	Believing	<i>"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'"</i>	John 11:40
162.	Believing	<i>"And Jesus answered saying to them, 'Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.'"</i>	Mark 11:22 – 24
163.	Believing	The critical choice for the new believer regarding how he will live is this: Will he trust in his own wisdom, or the world's wisdom, or someone else's wisdom as to what choices he should make in his life? Or will he trust in God's wisdom, as taught in God's Word, the Holy Bible?  <i>"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."</i>	Pastor Jim  Proverbs 3:5-6
164.	Believing	<i>"One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, 'Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!' But the other answered, and rebuking him said, 'Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he was saying, 'Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!' And He said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.'"</i>  <i>Note: Salvation was granted to the one thief because he showed his belief in Jesus by referring to Jesus as God and also by asking Jesus to remember him when He entered His kingdom. This is what believing looks like.</i>	Luke 23:39 – 43

## Prayer

Prayer is our way of communicating with God and shows God we not only trust Him, but we also revere Him and are willing to humble ourselves before Him. For our prayers to be answered, they must align with God's will, not our own.

165.	Prayer	<i>“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”</i>	Matthew 6:5 – 8
166.	Prayer	There is a protocol for proper prayer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acknowledge our God who is in Heaven and who is sovereign over all things</li> <li>- Hallow His name</li> <li>- Ask for blessings that are consistent with God’s will and not our will</li> <li>- Ask for God’s blessing in Jesus’ name</li> </ul> <i>“Pray, then, in this way: “Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”] For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”</i>	Matthew 6:9 – 15
167.	Prayer	<i>“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”</i>	1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 5:18
168.	Prayer	<i>“And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, ‘Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.’ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.”</i> When we pray, we should pray as if our lives depend on it.	Luke 22:41 – 44  Pastor Jim
169.	Prayer	God always hears our prayers. Sometimes He answers “yes”, sometimes He answers “no”, and sometimes He answers “wait”.	Pastor Jim
170.	Prayer	When we earnestly pray in faith, according to God’s will, God hears our prayers and answers them. This is one aspect of our personal relationship with God – we can talk to Him because Christ has made it possible through His death on the cross for us.	Pastor Jim
171.	Prayer	<i>“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”</i>	I John 5:14-15
172.	Prayer	God is not a genie who gives us whatever we ask for according to our pleasure. God is God, and He desires that we become like Christ, because that is in our best interest and for His glory. Therefore, He may not give us everything we want, and He might discipline us so that we will not be spoiled and so that we will become more like Jesus Christ.	Pastor Jim
173.	Prayer	<i>“And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”</i>	Matthew 21:22
174.	Prayer	Why our prayers are not answered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are delayed (Daniel 9)</li> <li>• Our motives are self-indulgent and thus wrong (James 4:1-3)</li> <li>• We are not repentant (Isaiah 59:1-2)</li> <li>• We don’t pray according to God’s will (I John 5:14-15)</li> <li>• We are too self-important [proud] (I John 5:14-15)</li> <li>• We do not pray in Jesus’ name (John 16:23-24 &amp; I Timothy 2:5-6)</li> <li>• We don’t care enough or are insincere (Jeremiah 29:13)</li> <li>• We do not give in accord with God’s will – generously (Malachi 3:8-12)</li> </ul>	Various Scriptures

## Obedience

Jesus makes it clear that evidence of our belief in Him is demonstrated in how well (and how often) we obey His teachings and keep His commandments.

175.	Obedience	<i>“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”</i>	John 3:35 – 36
176.	Obedience	<i>“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.’”</i>	Acts 5:29 – 32
177.	Obedience	<i>“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”</i>	John 14:15
178.	Obedience	<i>“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”</i>	John 14:21
179.	Obedience	<i>“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”</i>	2 Corinthians 10:3 – 5

## The Church

The Church is not only the fellowship of people who have placed their faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior, but also, symbolically, Christ’s body on earth.

180.	The Church	<i>“Now we are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.”</i> <i>“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.”</i>	I Corinthians 12:27  Ephesians 5:29-30
181.	The Church	<i>“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.’”</i>  Note: It is believed by some that Jesus was not referring to a physical rock but rather was using the rock as a metaphor for Peter (also known as Cephas, which translated means rock) or as a symbol of the truth that He was, indeed, the Christ and the Son of God as spoken by Peter, and upon that truth He would build His church.	Matthew 16:13 – 18

## Fellowship

The biblical Christian Church, initiated by Christ and founded by His Apostles, is not built upon any precepts or institutions of man, but rather is constituted from the body of His believers who follow solely the Word of God (the Bible). Thus, it is the fellowship that exists among the brethren that gives the Church its strength and perseverance. The unity of this fellowship is paramount to God.

182.	Fellowship	God instructs us to be vitally related in love to other Christians, so that we will continue to follow Christ. He is not content with our merely knowing the Bible; He wants us doing what the Bible says.	Pastor Jim
183.	Fellowship	<i>“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”</i> <i>Jesus is speaking to God about His disciples whom He would be sending out into the world to spread the Gospel and the word of God, and to make disciples, creating the Church of believers that would comprise His Church.</i>	John 17:22 – 23
184.	Fellowship	<i>“We who had sweet fellowship together Walked in the house of God in the throng.”</i>	Psalms 55:14
185.	Fellowship	<i>“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”</i>	Proverbs 13:20



186.	Fellowship	<i>"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."</i>	Acts 2:41 – 42
187.	Fellowship	<i>"Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals'".</i>	I Corinthians 15:33
188.	Fellowship	<i>"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."</i>	Romans 12:9-13
189.	Fellowship	<i>"... what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."</i>	1 John 1:3
190.	Fellowship	<i>"For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."</i>	Romans 12:3 – 5

## Ministering/Service

As evidence of our sincere and abiding faith in Jesus, we will minister to others and be of service to those in need – just as He was.

191.	Ministering and Service	Our role is to serve the body of Christ, the Church, in accordance with how God has gifted us for ministry. <i>"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."</i>	Pastor Jim  Romans 12:6-8
192.	Ministering and Service	<i>"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."</i>	Romans 12:1
193.	Ministering and Service	<i>"If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."</i>	John 13:14-17
194.	Ministering and Service	<i>"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe."</i>	Hebrews 12:28
195.	Ministering and Service	<i>"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"</i>	Matthew 25:34 – 40
196.	Ministering and Service	<i>"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."</i>	Ephesians 4:11-13



197.	Ministering and Service	<p><i>“Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.</i></p> <p><i>‘But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.” And he said, “Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house — for I have five brothers — in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.” But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.” But he said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!” But he said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.””</i></p>	<p>Luke 16:19 – 31</p>
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## Witnessing | Sharing the Gospel

198.	Witnessing and Sharing the Gospel	<p>If you truly love Christ and love others as He commanded, then you will also love others He died for, including those friends, relatives and acquaintances of yours who will have a very bleak eternal destiny apart from faith in Christ. You can’t love someone fully if you’re not concerned enough about his eternal destiny to somehow help him to find out about the Good News of the Gospel.</p> <p><i>“Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>Matthew 4:18 – 19</p>
199.	Witnessing and Sharing the Gospel	<p><i>“And Jesus came up and spoke to them [His disciples], saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”</i></p>	<p>Matthew 28:18 – 20</p>
200.	Witnessing and Sharing the Gospel	<p>Share the Gospel without needing to see the results. Planting seeds is just as important as reaping the harvest.</p> <p><i>“Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.”</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>John 4:36 – 38</p>

## Good Deeds and Rewards

Being good people and doing good things will not get us into heaven. We should do good deeds for sure, not for gain but rather out of righteousness – a righteousness which becomes a new way of being that is born in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, given to us by Jesus Christ when we fully commit to believing in Him. While it is believing in Jesus and His Gospel with an abiding and repentant faith – evidenced by keeping His commandments – that gains us access to heaven, it is the degree to which we successfully mirror Christ’s righteousness in our daily habits that will determine our rewards once we arrive.

201.	Good Deeds	<p>That Jesus died on the cross to forgive us our sins is a free gift from God by His grace to us. It was paid for through the blood of Christ, His only begotten Son. No other debt is due if we elect to follow His Son.</p> <p><i>“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>Ephesians 2:8 – 9</p>
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202.	Good Deeds	<p>Although good works alone are not a means to salvation, good works are both a result of and an assurance of our faith, and thus our salvation.</p> <p><i>“Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, ‘You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.’”</i></p> <p><i>“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>James 2:17 – 18</p> <p>James 2:26</p>
203.	Good Deeds	<p>Good deeds will automatically follow from our believing in Jesus, being faithful to His teachings, keeping His commandments, and living our lives guided by His righteousness.</p> <p><i>“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”</i></p>	<p>-</p> <p>John 14:11 – 15</p>
204.	Good Deeds	<p><i>“He saves us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”</i></p>	<p>Titus 3:5</p>
205.	Good Deeds	<p>Good deeds alone are just good deeds, and they alone will not provide a way to God and God’s kingdom. One must also believe in Jesus and His Gospel, be faithful to His teachings, and live his life according to His will.</p> <p><i>“But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.”</i></p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>Romans 11:6</p>
206.	Good Deeds	<p>That which one trusts and has faith in determines what one does.</p> <p>If your faith in Christ is real, your behavior will mirror His.</p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p> <p>-</p>
207.	Good Deeds	<p>If you make it into heaven, your good deeds on earth will determine your place in heaven. Your righteousness will determine your reward.</p>	<p>Pastor Jim</p>
208.	Rewards	<p><i>“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”</i></p>	<p>Matthew 10:40 – 42</p>

## Demotion

While this may sound odd, demotion is an important Christian theme. It is certainly evident in Christ’s two commandments – love God and love your neighbor as yourself. At best, you can only become third in this sequence.

209.	Demotion	<p><i>“He must increase, but I must decrease.”</i></p> <p>By baptizing Jesus, John the Baptist accepted his demotion and Christ’s promotion.</p>	<p>John 3:30</p>
210.	Demotion	<p><i>“At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, ‘Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children [totally innocent, humble, dependent, obedient, and willing to listen to God’s Word], you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”</i></p>	<p>Matthew 18:1 – 4</p>
211.	Demotion	<p><i>“But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”</i></p>	<p>James 4:6 – 7</p>

## The First Become Last and the Last Become First

This concept appears often in the Bible, and we believe Jesus is telling us that we need to abandon the pride that makes us first in our eyes and instead become servants of God. Being a servant is hardly one’s normal goal in life, but when we surrender our own pride and commit ourselves to being good and faithful servants of the Lord and minister to the brethren, then we will be seen as first in His kingdom.

212.	The First Shall be Last and the Last Shall be First	<i>“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.”</i>	Matthew 19:29 – 30
213.	The First Shall be Last and the Last Shall be First	<i>“Jesus said, ‘Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.’”</i>	Mark 10:29 – 31
214.	The First Shall be Last and the Last Shall be First	<i>“Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous? So the last shall be first, and the first last.”</i>	Matthew 20:14 – 16
215.	The First Shall be Last and the Last Shall be First	<i>“Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, ‘You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’”</i>	Mark 10:42 – 45
216.	The First Shall be Last and the Last Shall be First	<i>“Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, saying: ‘The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men. But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.’”</i> Does the old saying ‘Do as I say, not as I do’ come to mind? Now you know where it comes from.	Matthew 23:1 – 12

## Humility

Our humility glorifies God for He is the exalted one, not us.

217.	Being Humble	<i>“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”</i>	Matthew 11:29 – 30
218.	Being Humble	<i>“And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ‘Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’” But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, the sinner!” I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.’”</i> <b>Note:</b> When compared to God, there is no such thing as being “better than”. Thus, when God hears a man claiming to be better than other men, He turns a deaf ear. But to a sinner seeking His mercy, God is all ears.	Luke 18:9 – 14

219.	Being Humble	<p><i>“And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them, ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’ And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’”</i></p>	<p>Luke 14:7 – 14</p>
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## Forgiveness

Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our having sinned against God, and His sinless blood sacrifice was sufficient to pay that penalty, in full, once for all and forever. If you genuinely believe this, as it is part of the Gospel, your sins will be forgiven and forgotten by God. So, if Christ died for us and forgives us, who then, are we, to withhold our forgiveness from others? Because we are of the flesh and always subject to our sinful nature, we will continue to sin. Jesus knows this. But if we believe in Jesus and His Gospel, and sincerely confess our sins to God and ask Him for forgiveness, He will grant it.

220.	Forgiveness	<p><i>“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”</i></p>	<p>I John 1:9</p>
221.	Forgiveness	<p><i>“‘For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.’ Then He said to her, ‘Your sins have been forgiven.’”</i></p>	<p>Luke 7:47 – 48</p>
222.	Forgiveness	<p><i>“‘Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’” And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.’”</i></p>	<p>Matthew 18:32 – 35</p>
223.	Forgiveness	<p><i>“‘Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.’”</i></p>	<p>Mark 11:25 – 26</p>
224.	Forgiveness	<p><i>“‘Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.’”</i></p>	<p>Luke 17:3 – 4</p>

## Managing God’s Gifts

As is often the case with Jesus’ parables, their surface meaning is not His real message. In the following parable, Jesus is telling His disciples, and us, that God gives each of us our individual talents (gifts) and He expects us to use them to serve and glorify Him. To the extent we are successful in doing so, He rewards us more than we can imagine. However, if we think only of ourselves, as does the last slave in the parable (by only being conscious of his fear), we will ultimately end up losing all we have. This message has a double meaning - for if we fail to believe in the gift of God’s only begotten son, who died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, we will forfeit His greatest gift of eternal life.

225.	Managing God's Gifts	<p><b>The Parable of the Ten Minas</b></p> <p><i>“So He said, ‘A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, “Do business with this until I come back.” But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, “We do not want this man to reign over us.” When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. The first appeared, saying, “Master, your mina has made ten minas more.” And he said to him, “Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.” The second came, saying, “Your mina, master, has made five minas.” And he said to him also, “And you are to be over five cities.” Another came, saying, “Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.” He said to him, “By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?” Then he said to the bystanders, “Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.” And they said to him, “Master, he has ten minas already.” I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.”</i></p>	<p>Luke 19:12 – 26</p>
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## Giving

In our giving, we should give first to God that which we can, as through His grace He provides for us. And when we give from righteousness, it will be returned to us manyfold. Let there be a time in your life when you can't give away your treasure fast enough because you trust God and give accordingly.

226.	Giving	When we dedicate our lives to Christ, it includes our pocketbook. You cannot outgive God.	Pastor Jim
227.	Giving	The gold standard of giving is that Jesus gave His life for us.	-
228.	Giving	<i>“So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”</i>	Matthew 6:2 – 4
229.	Giving	<i>“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”</i>	Luke 6:38
230.	Giving	<i>“And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.’”</i>	Mark 12:41 – 44
231.	Giving	<p>That which you give with grace, comes back to you ten-fold.</p> <p><i>“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”</i></p>	<p>-</p> <p>2 Corinthians 9:6 – 8</p>

## The Cost of Being a Disciple

Disciples of Christ will pay a heavy price on earth, but they will be rewarded without measure in Heaven.



232.	The Cost of Being a Disciple	<p><i>“And He said to another, ‘Follow Me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.’ But He said to him, ‘Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.’ Another also said, ‘I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’”</i></p> <p>Christ always knows our real motives and speaks to them, not what comes out of our mouths. He is telling us here that we should not wait until it is convenient for us to follow Him.</p>	Luke 9:59 – 62
233.	The Cost of Being a Disciple	<p><i>“Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.’”</i></p> <p>Note: Hate in this context and in the time of Jesus means “take priority over”. Jesus is telling His disciples that following Him should take priority over one’s family.</p>	Luke 14:25 – 35
234.	The Cost of Being a Disciple	<p><i>“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, “A slave is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”</i></p>	John 15:18 – 20
235.	The Cost of Being a Disciple	<p>In his letter to the Church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote: <i>“You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you. For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.”</i></p>	1 Corinthians 4:8 – 16
236.	The Cost of Being a Disciple	<p>Identify that which you must yield to and submit to in order to follow Christ fully. Identify your sins that you need to ask God’s forgiveness for. Identify your behaviors and habits that you need to change, and change them.</p>	Pastor Jim

## False Prophets

Satan is the source of all false prophets and his deceptions will sometimes be difficult to spot. But know God’s Word and be alert. If it “looks like Christ” but does not correspond to the teaching of the Bible, it isn’t. With Christ, there is no substitute. His second coming will not be mistaken by those who stand in awe of His true power and who know and believe in His Word.

The Bible is the Word of God, and from the beginning, Jesus was the Word. If it isn’t in the Bible, then it isn’t Jesus. So, beware of those who teach or ask you to follow anything that is not actually in the Bible. When Jesus returns, it will not be to alter the Bible (or add to it), but to judge harshly those who failed to follow it.

237.	False Prophets	<p><i>“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.”</i></p> <p>Note: “Sheep” are often a reference to those who truly believe in and follow Jesus and ‘fruits’ are equivalent to works or behavior.</p>	Matthew 7:15-20
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238.	False Prophets	<i>“Then if anyone says to you, “Behold, here is the Christ,” or “There He is,” do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. So if they say to you, “Behold, He is in the wilderness,” do not go out, or, “Behold, He is in the inner rooms,” do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”</i>	Matthew 24:23 – 27
239.	False Prophets	<i>“Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day [of judgement], “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in your name perform many miracles?” And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.”</i>  Do not be among the ones Jesus never knew.	Matthew 7:21-23  -

## Resurrection

Jesus was crucified as perishable flesh, and our sins are forgiven by the sacrifice of His sinless blood; but He was resurrected by God as imperishable flesh to prove that eternal life is available to all who believe in Him.

240.	Resurrection	<i>“And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And He was stating the matter plainly.”</i>	Mark 8:31 – 8:32A
241.	Resurrection	<i>“And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.’ And they were deeply grieved.”</i>	Matthew 17:22 – 23
242.	Resurrection	<i>“Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, ‘Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, “A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me?” Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.”</i>	John 16:19 – 22
243.	Resurrection	<i>“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ And they remembered His words, and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.”</i>	Luke 24:1 – 12

## Revelation | The Second Coming of Christ | Final Judgment

The second coming of Christ and His Final Judgment involve a very complex and intricate set of events which we will not discuss in detail here. Just know that when Christ returns, it will not be to teach, or to praise, or to save – it will be to judge. And His judgment will be harsh for it will separate those who will spend a blissful eternity in heaven with Him from those who will spend a horrible and pain-filled eternity in hell (the lake of fire) with Satan. The end of times as explained in the Bible will have four main stages:

1. The seven years of Tribulations combined with the Rapture of the Church and the Judgment Seat of Christ (where believers are assigned their rewards in heaven). We do not know when during the seven years the Rapture will occur;
2. Christ's Millennial (1000-year) Kingdom on Earth;
3. Christ's Final Judgement – the Great White Throne Judgement; and
4. A new heaven and earth – the old heaven and earth pass away and are remade by God to include only the truly righteous.

Only God the Father knows the date His Son will return. But in His last days with His disciples, Jesus summarizes what the world will experience.

244.	The End of Times	<i>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”</i>	Matthew 13:47 – 50
245.	The End of Times	<i>“Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, ‘Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.’ And He said, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”</i>	Matthew 13:36 – 43
246.	The End of Times	<i>“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has [eternal] life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have [eternal] life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”</i>	John 5:25 – 30
247.	The End of Times	<p><i>“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”</i></p> <p>Note: We believe Jesus is foreshadowing the Rapture of His Church, i.e., the resurrection into non-perishable bodies of all who sincerely believed in Him – both those living and those who have already died. We believe Jesus raptures His Church of believers so we will not have to experience the horrific events leading to the end of the age. Thank you, Lord Jesus!</p>	Luke 21:25 – 28
248.	The End of Times	<i>“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, “Be on the alert!””</i>	Mark 13:32 – 37

249.	The End of Times	<p><i>“So if they say to you, “Behold, He is in the wilderness,” do not go out, or, “Behold, He is in the inner rooms,” do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation [of humanity] will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth [as we now know it] will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”</i></p>	<p>Matthew 24:26 – 35</p> <p>See Also Mark 13:24 – 31</p>
250.	The End of Times	<p>Separation of the righteous from the wicked will be in the wink of an eye. There is no better time to repent than now.</p> <p><i>“And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.”</i></p>	<p>-</p> <p>Luke 17:26–36</p>
251.	The End of Times	<p><i>“As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’</i></p> <p><i>“And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.</i></p> <p><i>‘Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.’”</i></p> <p>[Midway through the seven years of Tribulation] <i>“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, “Behold, here is the Christ,” or “There He is,” do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.”</i></p>	<p>Matthew 24:3 – 25</p>

252.	The End of Times	<p><b>The Great White Throne of Judgment – Christ’s Final Judgment</b></p> <p><i>“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.</i></p> <p><i>‘Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.” Then the righteous will answer Him, “Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?” The King will answer and say to them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.”</i></p> <p><i>‘Then He will also say to those on His left, “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.” Then they themselves also will answer, “Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?” Then He will answer them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.” These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”</i></p>	Matthew 25:31 – 46
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# Appendix One: Be – Do – Have Philosophy

Too often we believe that if we only had enough of “X” (like time), then we would be able to do “Y” (exercise), so that we could be “Z” (thin). This is a Have -> Do -> Be philosophy and is backwards of how life actually works. First, we must choose to be the person we want to be; then we must do the things that are consistent with being that person; then, and only then, will we have what we seek. Here is how this works with regard to being a Biblical Christian.

## BE

Christ  
like

## DO

Believe that Christ died to forgive our sins and rose on the third day

Repent and have a sincere and abiding faith in Christ

Take actions consistent with being Christlike

Love and honor God and love others as Christ loved us

Keep Christ's Commandments

Believe that Jesus is our only Savior and there is no other

Pray so that Christ may hear us and know us

Walk the Word - God's Word

Turn our lives over to God and live according to His will and not our own

Trust that God will always provide what we need according to His will and not our wishes

## HAVE

Eternal Life in the Kingdom of Heaven

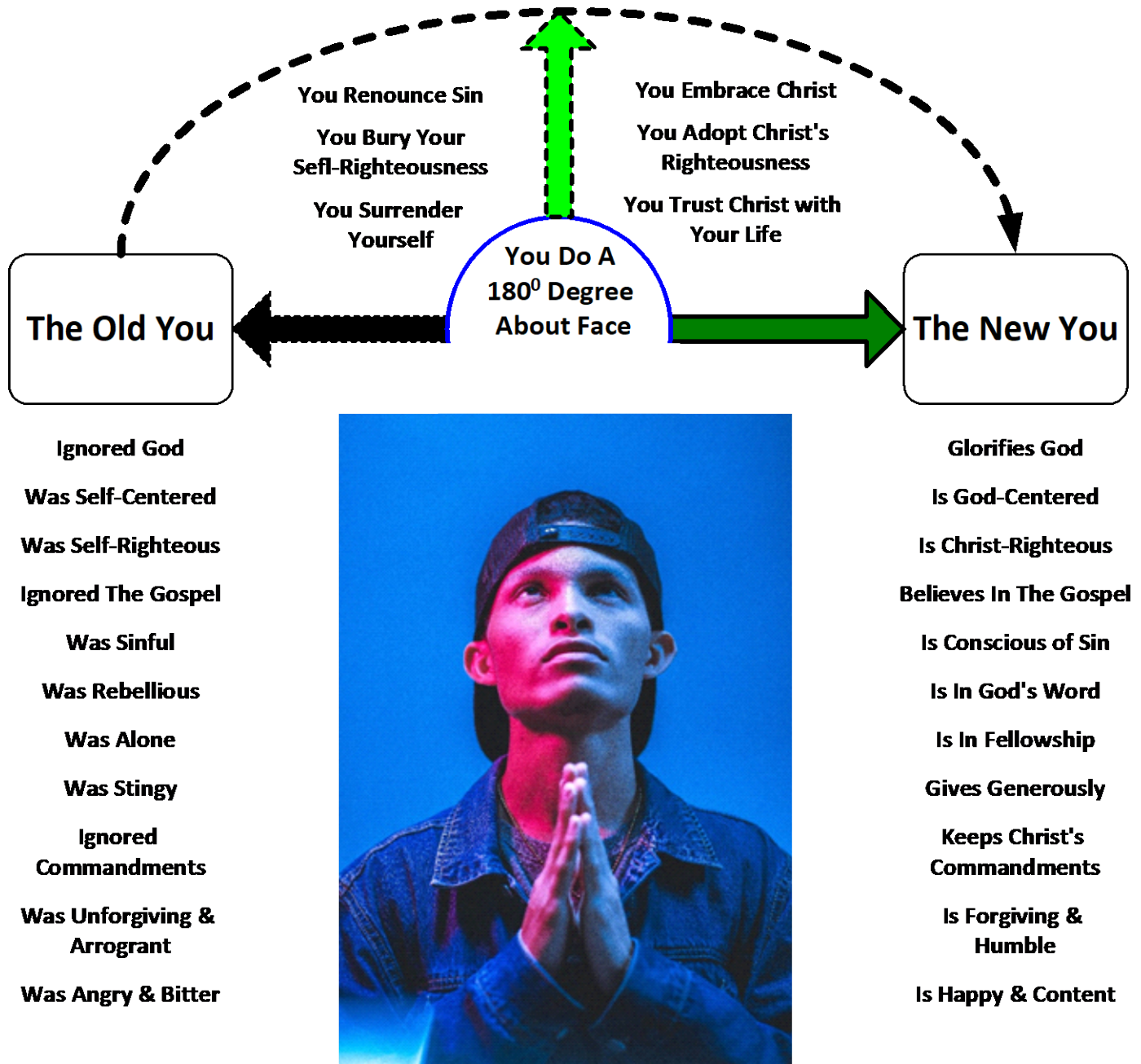
A new relationship with Christ with His Holy Spirit living in and guiding us

A life in the Light and in God's Grace forever

Experience a physical heaven here on earth by enjoying Fruit of the Holy Spirit



# Appendix Two: What Repentance Look Like



**Repentance is not a one and done phenomena.  
It is something you declare for yourself and then strive to fulfill in all your daily behavior.**