

Reading Guide:

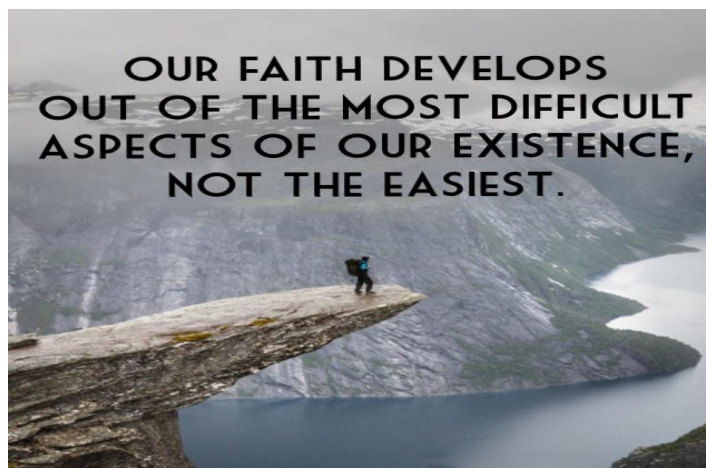
*In these advanced lessons you will dig deeper into the Word of God, the Bible. It's a followup of the beginners lessons. As mentioned in the Beginners lessons, the material is -at-it-is. Taken from Facebook where it was send in short messages, here on this website, you'll find all of the different files in main steps so you have all the same step-messages in one document. Later in time we hope to re-order the steps to a more smooth document. In our lessons we use the abbreviation that is more or less common in the evangelical world. A abbreviation as **Ex.1:10-15**, stand fort he tekst in the Biblebook Exodus, chapter 1 verse 10 up to and including verse 15. The index is clickable, by clicking on a sentence you will get rapidly on the right page.*

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1. Step 4a

Co - Workers: Step 4 - a



Genesis 1: 1-10

1 First this: God created the Heavens & Earth - all you see / all you don't see. **2** Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss. **3** God spoke: "Light!" and light appeared. **4** God saw that light was good and separated light from darkness. **5** God named the light Day, he named the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning - Day One. **6** God spoke: water!"

"Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water"

7 God made sky. He separated the water under sky from the water above sky. And there it was: **8** he named sky the Heavens; It was evening, it was morning - Day Two. **9** God spoke: "Separate! Water-Beneath-Heaven, gather into one place; Land, appear!" And there it was. **10** God named the land Earth. He named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good.

Commentary

Oh, what high thoughts should there be in our minds, of the great God whom we worship and of that great Mediator in whose name we pray and here, at the beginning of the sacred volume, we read of that Divine Spirit, whose work upon / in the heart of man is so often mentioned in other parts of the Bible.

Mention that: at first there was nothing desirable to see, for the world was without form and void; it was confusion, and emptiness. In like manner, the work of "grace" in the soul is a new creation: and in a graceless soul, one that is not yet born again, there is disorder, confusion and every evil work: it is empty of all good, for it is without God. In the new human creation, the first thing that was created in the soul was light: the blessed Spirit works upon the will and affections by enlightening the understanding. Those who by sin were darkness, by grace become light in the Lord. Darkness would have been always upon the fallen man if the Son of God had not come and given approving of. The earth was empty but by a Word spoken, it became full of God's riches and this they still are. Though the use of it has been allowed to man, it is from God and to his service and honor, they must be used.

John 1: 1-5

1 The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, **2** in readiness for God from day one. **3** Everything was created through him; nothing - not one thing! - came into being without him. **4** What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. **5** The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness however couldn't put it out.

Commentary

The plainest reason why the Son of God is the Word seems to be, that as our words explain our minds to others, so was the Son of God sent in order to reveal his Father's mind and heart to the world. What the evangelist says of Christ proves that he is God. He asserts, His existence in the beginning; His coexistence with the Father. The Word was with God. and It was God! He created all things!

1 John 1: 1-5

1 From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in - we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands. **2** The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen! Now we're telling you in most sober prose that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: The infinite Life of God himself took shape before us. **3** We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** Our motive for writing is simply this: We want you to enjoy this, too. Your joy will double our joy! **5** This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him.

Commentary

This Divine Person, the Word of life / the Word of God, appeared in human nature, that He might be the Author and Giver of eternal life to humankind, through the redemption of his blood, and the influence of his new-creating Spirit. The apostles declared what they had seen and heard; that believers might share their comforts and everlasting advantages. They had free access to God the Father. They had a happy experience of the truth in their hearts / souls and showed its excellence in their lives. This communion of believers with the Father and the Son has begun and kept up by the influences of the Holy Spirit. A message from the Lord Jesus, the Word of life / the eternal Word, we should all gladly receive. The great God'll have to be represented to this dark world, as pure and perfect light. As this is the nature of God, his doctrines and precepts must be such.

[Isaiah 25: 2-5 & 6-9](#)

Here you've reduced the city to rubble, the strong city to a pile of stones. The enemy Big City is a non-city, never to be a city again. **3** Superpowers will see it and honor you, brutal oppressors bow in worshipful reverence. **4** They'll see that you take care of the poor, that you take care of poor people in trouble, provide a warm, dry place in bad weather, provide a cool place when it's hot. Brutal oppressors are like a winter blizzard **5** and vicious foreigners like high noon in the desert.

But you, shelter from the storm and shade from the sun, shut the mouths of the big-mouthed bullies. **6** But here on this mountain, God-of-the-Angel-Armies will throw a feast for all the people of the world, A feast of the finest foods, a feast with vintage wines, a feast of seven courses, a feast lavish with gourmet desserts. **7** On this mountain, God will banish the pall of doom hanging over all peoples, the shadow of doom darkening all nations.

8 Yes, he'll banish death forever and God will wipe the tears from every face. He'll remove every sign of disgrace from his people, wherever they are. Yes! God says so!

9 Also at that time, people will say, "Look at what's happened! This is our God! We waited for him and he showed up and saved us! This God, the one we waited for! Let us celebrate, sing the joys of his salvation.

[Commentary](#)

True faith simply credits the Lord's testimony, and relies on his truth to perform his promises. As God weakens the strong who are proud and secure, so he strengthens the weak that are humble, and stay themselves upon him. God protects his people in all weathers. The Lord shelters those who trust in him from the insolence of oppressors. The kind reception of repenting sinners is often in the New Testament likened to a feast.

The guests invited are all people, Gentiles as well as Jews.

There is that in the gospel which strengthens and makes glad the heart and is fit for those who are under convictions of sin, and mourning! There is a veil spread over all nations, for all sit in darkness. This veil the Lord will destroy, by the light of his gospel shining in the world and the power of his Spirit opening men's eyes to receive it. With joy and praise will those entertain the glad tidings of the Redeemer, who looked for him; and with a triumphant song will glorified saints enter into the joy of their Lord. It is not in vain to wait for him for His mercy comes at last, with abundant recompense for the delay.

[Isaiah 52:7-12:](#)

7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news, Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times, announcing salvation, telling Zion,

"Your God reigns!"

8 Voices! Listen! Your scouts are shouting, thunderclap shouts, shouting in joyful unison. They see with their own eyes God coming back to Zion. **9** Break into song! Boom it out, ruins of Jerusalem: "God has comforted his people! He's redeemed Jerusalem!" **10** God has rolled up his sleeves. All the nations can see his holy, muscled arm. Everyone, from one end of the earth to the other, sees him at work, doing his salvation work.

11 Out of here! Out of here! Leave this place! Don't look back. Don't contaminate yourselves with plunder. Just leave, but leave clean. Purify yourselves in the process of worship, carrying the holy vessels of God. **12** but you don't have to be in a hurry. You're not running from anybody! God is leading you out of here, and the God of Israel is also your rear guard. It was Our Pains He Carried.

Commentary

Let those weary and heavy laden under the burden of sin, find relief in Christ, shake themselves from the dust of their doubts and fears, and loose themselves from those bands. The price paid by the Redeemer for our salvation, was not silver or gold, or corruptible things, but his own *precious* blood. Considering the freeness of this salvation, and how hurtful to temporal comfort sins are, we shall more value the redemption - which is in Christ. Do we seek victory over every sin, recollecting that the glory of God requires holiness in every follower of Christ? The good news is that the Lord Jesus *reigns*. Christ himself brought these tidings first. His ministers proclaim these good tidings: keeping themselves clean from the world, they are beautiful to those to whom they are sending.

Isaiah 66: 1-2 & 5

1 God's Message: "Heaven's my throne, earth is my footstool. What sort of house could you build for me? What holiday spot reserve for me? **2** I made all this! I own all this!" God's Decree. "But there is something I'm looking for: a person simple and plain, reverently responsive to what I say. **5** But listen to what God has to say to you who reverently respond to his Word: "Your own families hate you and turn you out because of me. They taunt you, 'Let us see God's glory! If God's so great, why aren't you happy?' But they're the ones who are going to end up shamed."

Commentary

The Jews gloried much in their temple but: what satisfactions can the eternal One take in a house made by men's hands? God has a heaven and an earth of his own making and temples of man's making; but he overlooks them, that he may look with favor to him who is poor in spirit and serious, self-abasing and self-denying; whose heart truly sorrows for sin: such a heart is a living temple for God. The prophet turns to those that trembled at God's Word, to comfort and encourage them. The Lord will appear, to the joy of the humble believer, and to the confusion of hypocrites and persecutors. When the Spirit was poured out and the gospel went forth from Zion, multitudes were however converted in a little of time → a beautiful result of that divine Sacrifice!

Jeremiah 1: 1-10

1 The Message of Jeremiah son of Hilkiyah of the family of priests who lived in Anathoth in the country of Benjamin. **2** God's Message began to come to him during the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amos reigned over Judah. **3** It continued to come to him during the time Jehoiakim son of Josiah reigned over Judah. And it continued to come to him clear down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah over Judah, the year that Jerusalem was taken into exile.

4 This is what God said: **5** "Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you: A prophet to the nations - that's what I had in mind for you." **6** But I said, "Hold it, Master God! Look at me. I don't know anything. I'm only a boy!" **7** God told me, "Don't say, 'I'm only a boy.' I'll tell you where to go and you'll go there. I'll tell you what to say and you'll say it."

8 Don't be afraid of a soul. I'll be right there, looking after you." God's Decree. **9** God reached out, touched my mouth, and said, "Look! I've just put my words in your mouth - hand-delivered! **10** See what I've done? I've given you a job to do among nations and governments - a red-letter day! Your job is to pull up and tear down, take apart and demolish, And then start over, building and planting." Stand Up and Say Your Piece!

Commentary

Jeremiah's early call to the work and office of a prophet is stated. He was to be a prophet, not to the Jews only, but to the neighboring nations. He is still a prophet to the whole world, and it would be well if they would attend to these warnings. The Lord, who formed us, knows for what particular services and purposes he intended us.

However, unless He sanctifies us by his new-creating Spirit, we shall neither be fit for his holy service on earth, nor for his holy happiness in heaven. It becomes us to have low thoughts of the evil one and our selves. Those who are young should consider that they are so and not venture beyond their powers.

Though a sense of our own weakness and insufficiency should make us go humbly about our work, it should not make us draw back when God calls us. Those who have messages to deliver from God must **not** fear the face of man. The Lord, by a sign, gave Jeremiah such a gift as was necessary. God's messages'll be shared in his own words. What ever a worldly wise men or politicians may think, the safety of kingdoms is decided according to the Purpose and Word of God.

Jeremiah 23: 8-9

8 but, 'As sure as God lives, the God who brought the descendants of Israel back from the north country and from the other countries where he'd driven them, so that they can live on their own good earth.'" The "Everything Will Turn out Fine" Sermon **9** My head is reeling, my limbs are limp, I'm staggering like a drunk, seeing double from too much wine - And all because of God, because of his holy words.

Commentary

This righteousness which he has wrought out to the satisfaction of law and justice, becomes ours; being a free gift given to us, through the Spirit of God, who puts it into us and clothes us with it, enables us to lay hold upon it and claim an interest in it.

"The Lord our Righteousness"

A sweet name to a convinced sinner → to the one that has felt the guilt of sin in his conscience / seen his need and the worth of that righteousness!

This great salvation is far more glorious than all former deliverances of his church. May our souls be gathered to Him, and be found in him!

Luke 8:1-15: the Sower of the Seed (the Zoë - Word)

1 He continued according to plan, traveled to town after town, village after village, preaching God's kingdom, spreading the Message. The Twelve were with him. **2** There were also some women in their company who had been healed of various evil afflictions and illnesses: Mary, the one called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; **3** Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's manager; and Susanna - along with many others who used their considerable means to provide for the company.

4 As they went from town to town, a lot of people joined in and traveled along. He addressed them, using this story: **5** "A farmer went out to sow his seed. Some of it fell on the road; it was tramped down and the birds ate it. **6** Other seed fell in the gravel; it sprouted, but withered because it didn't have good roots. **7** Other seed fell in the weeds; the weeds grew with it and strangled it.

8 Other seed fell in rich earth and produced a bumper crop. "Are you listening to this? Really listening?" **9** His disciples asked, "Why did you tell this story?" **10** He said, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom - you know how it works. There are others who'll need stories. But even with stories some of them aren't going to get it: Their eyes are open but they don't see a thing, their ears are open but they don't hear a thing. **11** "This story is about some of those people. The seed is the Word of God.

12 The seeds on the road are those who hear the Word, but no sooner do they hear it than the Devil snatches it from them so they won't believe and be saved. **13** "The seeds in the gravel are those who hear with enthusiasm, but the enthusiasm doesn't go very deep. It's only another fad, and the moment there's trouble it's gone. **14** "And the seed that fell in the weeds - well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money and having fun.

15 "But the seed in the good earth - these are the good-hearts who seize the Word and hold on no matter what, sticking with it until there's a harvest.

Commentary

Though only a remnant of God's flock is left, He will find them out and they'll be brought back to their former habitations. Christ is shown here as a branch from David's family. He is righteous Himself, and through Him, all **his** people are righteous. Christ shall break the usurped power of Satan. All the spiritual seed of believing Abraham and praying Jacob'll be protected, and shall be saved from the guilt and dominion of sin.

In the days of Christ's government in the soul, the soul dwells at ease. He is here spoken of as "the Lord our Righteousness." He is so our Righteousness as no creature could be. His obedience unto death is the justifying righteousness of believers, and their title to heavenly happiness. These false teachers would be compelled to suffer the bitter part of the Lord's indignation. They made themselves believe that there was no harm in sin, and practiced accordingly; then they made others believe so. Those who are resolved to go on in evil ways, will justly be given up to believe strong delusions but:

*They who's hearts were
well prepared 'd bear excellent fruit as they knew Him face to face!*

James 1: 23-25

23 Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, **24** walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like. **25** But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God - the free life! - even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

Commentary

Mere hearers are self-deceivers and self-deceit will be the worst deceit at last. If we flatter ourselves, it is our own fault; the truth, as it is in Jesus, flatters no man. Let the Word of Truth be carefully attended to, and it will set before us the corruption of our nature, the disorders of our hearts and lives; It will tell us plainly, what we are. Our sins are the spots the law discovers: Christ's blood is the *laver* the gospel shows.

However, in vain do we hear God's Word and look into the gospel glass, if we go away, and forget our spots, instead of washing them off / forget our remedy, instead of applying to it. Christ will become more precious to the believer's soul, which by his grace will become more grown up for the inheritance of the saints in light!

1.1. "My personal note"

In [Step 5](#) we share a lot on the Holy Spirit of God symbolized by the Candlestick in the Tabernacle of Moses now we're doing some lessons in this [Co Workers Step 4](#) about the precious Word of the Lord! Now first unto some Scripts mentioned above in Genesis 1 / 1 John 1 - on the creative power of the *Zoë - Word* in creation! This is a tremendous creative *Power* in the mouth of the Almighty! Here read please in the 1 st 2 verses of Genesis 1

Here his Name: *EI - Elohim* has been used; Here standing for the plural form of his Being: *The Father; The Son (the Word) & His: Holy Spirit* ! Looking to John 's Scripts we see that particularly he was deeply involved in the things about the *EI - Elohim* even through all of his writings we'll notice his intimacy with the Savior; he even laid his head on Jesus breast there at the last Supper in John 17!

Mention - this brother was once: one of those 2 "Sons of the Thunder" and he **must** have enjoyed that Matthew 11: 28-30 meeting with our Lord Jesus in a very deep way; it was he who shared us a lot about the *Holy Spirit* & the *Father*! He did show Jesus in John 10 as the Good Shepherd and in John 17 as the High Priest; later on he was powerfully blessed during that isolation on the isle of Patmos to receive **THE** revelations personally from Him!

1.2. FB - chat - conversation

We see 2 groups of ministers:

Evangelists on fire with a joyful message reaching the people and watchmen- as Habakuk → here on the walls of the City; they were getting astonished when they saw the Lord & His glory appearing – there they also did warn the people to leave their religious cults and to chose to go for that blessed Savior!

T - J

As I read this verse, I cannot help but to notice the extreme joy over the messenger bringing the good news. As well I noticed the great comfort that the Lord gives to his people when he reassures them multiple times - Glory !

The Word as an Hammer and Fire

br Paulo

It's working as a Hammer this to crash the rocky bottoms of our stony hearts: as shown in the parable of the Sewer in Luc 8; also as a Fire to bless the look warm to get them out of their comfort zone up to Sion see:

Zachariah 2 up from verse 5 this by the principles shown by our Lord in Matthew 11: 28!

T - J

I find this to be true in many stories that I hear through the ministry as well as in my own life where we need God's hammer to break open our hearts in order to bring us back to is Word.

Psalm 40 part. Verses 7-8

br Paulo

Here David as in Psalm 27 lifted up out of His distress situation start to sing a new song unto the Lord and receives that valuable prophesy about the Lamb that'd be slathered there on Gal varies hill → read now the essay on Psalm 40 !

T - J

I find it important to Stay with God, to take heart and to never quit. AMEN !

About Jesus about that parable on the Sewer & the Seed

br Paulo

Showing us the differences in heart conditions / attitudes during the sowing of the Seed, which is the creative *Zoë - Word* of the Lord; here some bad influences are stated as: Lack of soft soil c.q. hardened hearts this by world likeness / lust and grieve to money! Matthew 11: 28 show us here again His solution - here that what I shared on Isaiah 52 and Zechariah 2 is of great value!

T - J

It's important to plant our seeds that we sow in the proper soil. Just as it is important to listen, watch, and follow God's word → Amen!

Jesus meeting His friends in despair from Emmaus

br Paulo

These fellows were badly in despair caused by all that happened last days – then Jesus joins with them showing them first the Savior had to suffer before he was to be lifted up He even rebukes them on losing sight on this! Then He started sharing all what was written on Him before in the old Books → Later on they took notice that their hearts went to get on Fire and the cloud of despair vanished! When they approached their house in Emmaus, he pretends to pass by but they urge Him to join them for supper and grants them that privilege! During that supper - He breaks the bread and their eyes opened; then He disappears leaving them in great *joy!*

T - J

Great joy and good tidings come to those who keep their focus on Christ.

Dear friend our Co - Workers this concludes the *Co-Workers Step 4 - a* the next lesson will be *Co Workers Step 4 - b* for now be highly blessed - in Him - br Paulo !

2. Step 4 - b

"Co -Workers" - Step4 - b!"



Isaiah 40: 9-11

9 Climb a high mountain, Zion. You're the preacher of *good* news. Raise your voice. Make it good and loud, Jerusalem. You're the preacher of good news. Speak loud and clear. Don't be timid! Tell the cities of Judah, "Look! Your God!" **10** Look at him! God, the Master, comes in

power, ready to go into action. He is going to pay back his enemies and reward those who have loved him. **11** Like a shepherd, he will care for his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms, hugging them as he carries them, leading the nursing ewes to good pasture. The Creator of All You Can See or Imagine

Commentary Notes:

The prophet had some reference to the return of the Jews from Babylon. But this is a small event, compared with that pointed out by the Holy Ghost in the New Testament, when John the Baptist proclaimed the approach of Christ. When eastern princes marched through desert countries, ways were prepared for them, and hindrances removed. And may the Lord prepare our hearts by the teaching of his word and the convictions of his Spirit, that high and proud thoughts may be brought down, good desires planted, crooked and rugged tempers made straight and softened, and every hindrance removed, that we may be ready for his will on earth, and prepared for his heavenly kingdom

Isaiah 43: 1-2

1 But now, God's Message, the God who made you in the first place, Jacob, the One who got you started, Israel: "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. Your mine". **2** When you're in over your head, *I'll be there* with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end –!

Commentary

God's favor and good-will to his people speaks of abundant comfort to all believers. The new creature, wherever it is, is of God's forming. All who are redeemed with the blood of his Son, he has set apart for himself. Those that have God for them need not fear who or what can be against them. Who are Egypt and Ethiopia, all their lives and treasures, compared with the blood of Christ? True believers are precious in God's sight; his delight is in them, above any people. Though they went as through fire and water, yet, while they had God with them, they need fear no evil; they should be born up, and brought out.

Isaiah 49:2-3

2 He gave me speech that would cut and penetrate. He kept his hand on me to protect me. He made me his straight arrow and hid me in his quiver. **3** He said to me, "You're my dear servant, Israel, through whom I'll shine."

Commentary

The great Author of redemption shows the authority for his work. The sword of his word slays the lusts of his people, and all at enmity with them. His sharp arrows wound the conscience; but all these wounds will be healed, when the sinner prays to him for mercy. But even the Redeemer, who spoke as never man spoke in his personal ministry, often seemed to labor in vain. And if Jacob will not be brought back to God, and Israel will not be gathered, still Christ will be glorious. This promise is in part fulfilled in the calling of the Gentiles. Men perish in darkness but Christ enlightens men, and so makes them holy!

Isaiah 53: 1-12

1 Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this? **2** The servant grew up before God - a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. **3** He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum.

4 But the fact is, it was our pains he carried - our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. **5** But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him - our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed. **6** We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him.

7 He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word. Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered and like a sheep being sheared, he took it all in silence. **8** Justice miscarried, and he was led off - and did anyone really know what was happening? He died without a thought for his own welfare, beaten bloody for the sins of my people. **9** They buried him with the wicked, threw him in a grave with a rich man, even though he'd never hurt a soul or said one word that wasn't true. **10** Still, it's what God had in mind all along, to crush him with pain. The plan was that he gives himself as an offering for sin so that he'd see life come from it - life, life, and more life. God's plan will deeply prosper through him.

11 Out of that terrible travail of soul, He'll see that it's worth it and be glad he did it. Through what He experienced, my righteous one, my servant, will make many "righteous ones," as he himself carries the burden of their sins. **12** Therefore I'll reward him extravagantly - the best of everything, the highest honors - Because he looked death in the face and didn't flinch, because he embraced the company of the lowest. He took on his own shoulders the sin of the many, he took up the cause of all the black sheep.

Commentary

Nowhere in all of the Old Testament is it so plainly and fully prophesied, that Christ ought to suffer and then to enter into his glory, as in this chapter. But to this day few discern, or will acknowledge, that Divine power which goes with the word. The authentic and most important report of salvation for sinners, through the Son of God, is disregarded. The low condition he submitted to and his appearance in the world, were not agreeable to the ideas the Jews had formed of the Messiah. It was expected that he should come in pomp; instead of that, he grew up as a plant, silently, and insensibly.

He had nothing of the glory which one might have thought to meet with him. His whole life was not only humble as to outward condition, but also sorrowful. Being made sin for us, he underwent the sentence sin had exposed us to. Carnal hearts see nothing in the Lord Jesus to desire an interest in him. Alas! By how many is he still despised in his people, and rejected as to his doctrine and authority! It was for our sins, and in our stead, that our Lord Jesus suffered.

We have all sinned and do come short of the glory of God. Sinners have their beloved sin, their own evil way, of which they are fond. Our sins deserve all griefs and sorrows, even the most severe. We are saved from the ruin, to which by sin we become liable, by laying our sins on Christ. This atonement was to be made for our sins. And this is the only way of salvation. Our sins were the thorns in Christ's head, the nails in his hands and feet, the spear in his side. He was delivered to death for our offences. By his sufferings he purchased for us the Spirit and grace of God, to mortify our corruptions, which are the distempers of our souls. We may well endure our lighter sufferings, if He has taught us to esteem all things but loss for him, and to love him who has first loved us.

Jeremiah 17: 7-14

7 "But blessed is the man who trusts me, God, the woman who sticks with God. **8** They're like trees replanted in Eden, putting down roots near the rivers - Never a worry through the hottest of summers, never dropping a leaf, Serene and calm through droughts, bearing fresh fruit

every season. **9** "The heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful, a puzzle that no one can figure out. **10** But I, God, search the heart and examine the mind. I get to the heart of the human. I get to the root of things. I treat them as they really are, not as they pretend to be."

11 Like a cowbird that cheats by laying its eggs in another bird's nest Is the person who gets rich by cheating. When the eggs hatch, the deceit is exposed. What a fool he'll look like then!
12 From early on your Sanctuary was set high, a throne of glory, exalted! **13** O God, you're the hope of Israel. All who leave you end up as fools, Deserters with nothing to show for their lives, who walk off from God, fountain of living waters - and wind up dead! **14** God, pick up the pieces. Put me back together again. You are my praise!

Commentary

The heart and the conscience of man, in his corrupt and fallen state, is deceitful above all things. It calls evil good, and good evil; and cries peace to those to whom it does not belong. Herein the heart is desperately wicked; it is deadly and desperate. The case is bad indeed, if the conscience, which should set right the errors of other faculties, is a leader in the delusion.

We cannot know our own hearts, nor what they will do in an hour of temptation. Who can understand his errors? Much less can we know the hearts of others, or depend upon them. He that believes God's testimony in this matter, and learns to watch his own heart, will find this is a correct, though a sad picture, and learns many lessons to direct his conduct.

But much in our own hearts and in the hearts of others, will remain unknown. Yet whatever wickedness there is in the heart, God sees it. The prophet acknowledges the favor of God in setting up religion. There is fullness of comfort in God, overflowing, ever-flowing fullness, like a fountain. It is always fresh and clear, like spring-water, while the pleasure The prophet acknowledges the favor of God in setting up religion.

There is fullness of comfort in God, overflowing, ever-flowing fullness, like a fountain. It is always fresh and clear, like spring-water, while the pleasures of sin are puddle-waters. He prays to God for healing, saving mercy. He appeals to God concerning his faithful discharge of the office to which he was called. res of sin are puddle-waters. He prays to God for healing, saving mercy. He appeals to God concerning his faithful discharge of the office to which he was called

Matthew 11:27-30

27 Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. "The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I'm not keeping it to myself; I'm ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen. **28** "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. **29** Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. **30** Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Commentary

The Lord exercises his almighty power, yet he punishes none more than they deserve, and never withholds the knowledge of the truth from those who long after it. Our Savior has invited all that labor and are heavy-laden, to come unto him. In some senses all men are so. Worldly men burden themselves with fruitless cares for wealth and honors; the gay and the sensual labor in pursuit of pleasures; the slave of Satan and his own lusts, is the merest drudge on earth.

Those who labor to establish their own righteousness also labor in vain. The convinced sinner is heavy-laden with guilt and terror; and the tempted and afflicted believer has labors and burdens. Christ invites all to come to him for rest to their souls. He alone gives this invitation; men come to him, when, feeling their guilt and misery, and believing his love and power to help, they seek him in fervent prayer. Thus it is the duty and interest of weary and heavy-laden sinners, to come to Jesus Christ. This is the gospel call; Who ever will, let him come. All who thus come will receive rest as Christ's gift, and obtain peace and comfort in their hearts.

[Philippians 1:9-11](#)

9 So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings **10** so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: **11** bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.

[Commentary](#)

The truths and laws of Christ are excellent and they recommend themselves as such to any attentive mind. Sincerity is that in which we should have our conversation in the world and it is the glory of all our graces. Christians should not be apt to take offence, and should be very careful not to offend God or the brethren. The things which most honor God will most benefit us. Let us not leave it doubtful whether any good fruit is found in us or not. A small measure of Christian love, knowledge, and fruitfulness should not satisfy any.

[Colossians 1: 9 -11](#)

9 Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. **10** We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. **11** We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul - not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy,

[Commentary](#)

The apostle was constant in prayer, that the believers might be filled with the knowledge of God's will, in all wisdom. Good words will not do without good works. He who undertakes to give strength to his people, is a God of power, and of glorious power. The blessed Spirit is the author of this. In praying for spiritual strength, we are not straitened, or confined in the promises, and should not be so in our hopes and desires. The grace of God in the hearts of believers is the power of God; and there is glory in this power.

The special use of this strength was for sufferings. There is work to be done, even when we are suffering. Amidst all their trials they gave thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus, whose special grace fitted them to partake of the inheritance provided for the saints. To bring about this change, those were made willing subjects of Christ, who were slaves of Satan. All who are designed for heaven hereafter are prepared for heaven now. Those who have the inheritance of sons, have the education of sons, and the disposition of sons. By faith in Christ they enjoyed this redemption, as the purchase of his atoning blood, whereby forgiveness of sins and all other spiritual blessings were bestowed.

These 2 parts of Scripture in Phil. / Coll. are linked as well as the verses 1 – 8 of each !

[Revelations 1: 9-18](#)

9 I, John, with you all the way in the trial and the Kingdom and the passion of patience in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of God's Word, the witness of Jesus. **10** It was Sunday and I was in the Spirit, praying. I heard a loud voice behind me, trumpet-clear and piercing: **11** "Write what you see into a book. Send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea." **12** I turned and saw the voice. I saw a gold menorah with seven branches, **13** And in the center, the Son of Man, in a robe and gold breastplate,

14 hairs a blizzard of white, Eyes pouring fire-blaze, **15** both feet furnace-fired bronze, His voice a cataract, **16** right hand holding the Seven Stars, His mouth a sharp-biting sword, his face a perigee sun. **17** I saw this and fainted dead at his feet. His right hand pulled me upright, his voice reassured me: **18** I'm Alive. I died, but I came to life, and my life is now forever. See these keys in my hand? They open and lock Death's doors, they open and lock Hell's gates.

Commentary

If believers are kept on the Lord's holy day, from public ordinances and the communion of saints, by necessity and not by choice, they may look for comfort in meditation and secret duties, from the influences of the Spirit; and by hearing the voice and contemplating the glory of their beloved Savior, from whose gracious words and power no confinement or outward circumstances can separate them. An alarm was given as with the sound of the trumpet, and then the apostle heard the voice of Christ.

Revelations 19: 6 - 16

6 Then I heard the sound of massed choirs, the sound of a mighty cataract, the sound of strong thunder: Hallelujah! The Master reigns, our God, the Sovereign-Strong! **7** Let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give him the glory! The Marriage of the Lamb has come; his Wife has made herself ready. **8** She was given a bridal gown of bright and shining linen. The linen is the righteousness of the saints. **9** The Angel said to me, "Write this: 'Blessed are those invited to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.'" He added:

"These are the true words of God!" **10** I fell at his feet to worship him, but he wouldn't let me. "Don't do that," he said. "I'm a servant just like you, and like your brothers and sisters who hold to the witness of Jesus. The witness of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." **11** Then I saw Heaven open wide - and oh! a white Horse and its Rider. The Rider, named Faithful and True, judges and makes war in pure righteousness.

12 His eyes are a blaze of fire, on his head many crowns. He has a Name inscribed that's known only to himself. **13** He is dressed in a robe soaked with blood, and he is addressed as "Word of God." **14** The armies of Heaven, mounted on white horses and dressed in daz ling white linen, follow him. **15** A sharp sword comes out of his mouth so he can subdue the nations, then rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of the raging wrath of God, the Sovereign-Strong. **16** On his robe and thigh is written, King of kings / Lord of lords.

Commentary Notes:

They stand convicted of idolatry by a messenger from heaven. These are the true sayings of God; of Him who is to be worshipped, as one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Christ, the glorious Head of the church, is described as on a white horse, the emblem of justice and holiness. He has many crowns, for he is King of kings, and Lord of lords. He is arrayed in vesture dipped in his own blood, by which he purchased his power as Mediator; and in the blood of his enemies, over whom he always prevails.

His name is "The Word of God," a name none fully knows but himself; only this we know, that this Word was God manifest in the flesh; but his perfections cannot be fully understood by any

creature. Angels and saints follow and are like Christ in their armor of purity and righteousness. The threatening's of the written Word he is going to execute on his enemies. How vain will be the plead of many sinners at the great day! We followed our guides; we did as we saw others do! God has given a rule to walk by, in his word; neither the example of the most, nor of the chief, must influence us contrary thereto: if we do as the most do, we must go where the most go, even into the burning lake.

2.1. Chat Conversation – Step 4 b

br Paulo

1 Jeremiah 17: 7-8 & verse 10! A special item about blessings coming unto those on their trust and dedication unto the Lord most High! All through the Scriptures we see trees as symbolist used to express: the good and the evil of mankind; here it shows particularly the results of being faithful with Him → many of His blessings meant to be shared to Him / each other & those who are in need; this to connect those to Abba!

T - J

It reminds us the fact that when we turn to God and are faithful that we grow, strengthen, and flourish. It also stresses that God knows our hearts and if we aren't true he knows.

br Paulo

2 - Luc 1: 74 - 75 we'll find Zacheriah prophesying on Jesus & also on John who'd prepare His way as a voice in the wilderness and on His priests to come; that they 'ld be delivered from all of there enemies in great freedom & inner peace to serve Him daily with dedicated hearts filled with fire - as shown by John in the process of point 2 !

TJ

The Lord is our savior and can rescue us from anything. When our heart is true we'll be made holy.

br Paulo

3 - 1 John 2: 12 - 17! Here the Word shows: 2 x 3 phases of developments in growth : From children unto youngsters and then to adult fathers please do meditate on this very valuable part of Scripture; He loves them all but desires for fathers mostly as with them He can share His depths mostly – remember Isaiah 50: 4-10 about Jesus & Abba!

T - J

No matter the age no matter the experience we are always learning. Our jobs as fathers are important even when not felt significantly. We must have a constant reminder that Gods wants and needs are and will always be for an eternity. Our wants and needs are insignificant. Let our purpose be to love God and not the world or that of the world.

br Paulo

4 Philipians 1 & Colossians 1 → 9-11 Mention in both chapters the verses 1-8 are meant to be for the growing up & verses 9-11 for the grown up: these latter verses are strongly advised

to be paid quality attention to; as they are very powerful in there combined information → so of essential value to growing up fathers in relation with the Trinity !

T - J

In Philippians I see urgency to believers everywhere to not only praise God's name but to minister to others God's message to everyone regardless. I see a call to love all and to demonstrate a real and everlasting love as Christ has loved us. In Colossians I see a strength everlasting to pray, work and love as hard as we can and as much as we can.

br Paulo

5 Revelation 1: 9 - 16 we see this Conqueror amidst of those 7 Candle Sticks cleansing His bride; the church - this to prepare her in Revelation 2 & 3 for that big celebration event of their wedding; mention here: She is wearing on that feast:

*"A white linen dress here 2 meanings: the
Cleansing by the blood and the righteous works she did by the Holy Spirit' power!*

T - J

God's unedifying Glory and Beauty by His everlasting grace as the groom and bride in preparation!

br Paulo

Revelation 19: 6-10 The great celebration our Lord & His bride the Holy supper of the divine Marriage; the result of all we shared about in Step 1-6 included Step 4 about the cleansing and preparation of the Bride of the Lamb → the 7 Candle Sticks mentioned!

T - J

It's like stepping up to the Most Royal wedding and wedding feasts ever I cannot even begin to fathom the awe and wonder this will be!

br Paulo

Revelation 19: 11-16 Our Lord: "The Word of God" with His wife in white - as prescribed this added with His warrior angels; riding out on White Horses to battle the beast and to overcome evil → His / our divine purpose & perspective

T - J

I notice the robe of blood and the army dressed in white. I think this is significant as in time of battle different apparel is worn compared to the wedding ceremony. I think this also makes Christ stand out not only in love but also as the great warrior. Amen !

br Paulo

Songs of Salomon 4: 12 & 6: 10 & Proverbs 31 Showing us this woman during her development unto a sweat / dedicated woman acting as shown in that Epos on the virtual woman in **Proverbs 31** → *The Bride / Warrior of the Lamb!*

T - J

Glorifying God in all that we do, say, and act upon - demonstrating great wisdom, love, grace, and beauty on His behalf!

Dear friends; our Co - Workers this concludes the Co Workers Step 4 - 2 next lessons will be on Co Workers Step4 for now be highly blessed - in Him

- br Paulo !