

Preparation for Bible Class

USING THE THREE LENSES FOR A BIBLICALLY BALANCED PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

Paul's "Great Commission" Acts 20:27-28 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." (Also see Heb 13:17.)



SALVATION

Eternal relationship
Gal 1 vs. Eph 1:3-14



Legalism



Grace/Praise/Security



SPIRITUALITY

Vital Connection
w/Christ through HS



1 Cor 3; Gal 2:20-3:5

MAS



CCL under HS

Husbands/wives/work



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Growing Relationship
Eph. 4:13-14; 1 Jn 2:13-14

Newborn (unstable),
baby (unstable),
adolescent (strong), mature
(unbelievably powerful)

Psalm 56:11-13 In God I have put my trust
(בַּאֱלֹהִים בְּטַחַתִּי), I shall not be afraid. What can
man do to me? ¹² Thy vows are *binding* upon me,
O God; I will render thank offerings to Thee. ¹³ For
Thou hast delivered my soul from death, Indeed
my feet from stumbling, So that I may walk
(לְהִתְהַלֵּךְ) before God (לְפָנַי אֱלֹהִים) In the light of
the living (בְּאֹר הַחַיִּים).

56:11. The blessings and power of the FRT (cont)

1. Note the incredible power of faith rest (FR) to pull David out of reversionism, stabilize him, turn a complicated situation into a simple one, remove all stress from his life, and connect him back to God. FR is the quickest way for any believer to get back to right thinking with *God* and the POG [DV].
2. FR is one of the most important doctrines in the Word of God for a new believer to learn and for a mature believer to master--not only in dealing with problems of life, but in moving to a deep understanding of the supreme goodness of God's nature.
3. The beauty of this doctrine is that it is accessible to the baby believer as well as the mature believer---from a single passage of scripture to vast network of doctrinal and philosophical rationales. Note the importance of philosophical thinking.

4. Divine warnings and examples of failure to use FR (cont.).

- ✓ Failure to use FR is rebellion (מַרְדָּ) against God, Num 14:1-9. Moses gain victory for Israelites through FR.
 - Note the chaos of the faithless cowards and the mutiny.
 - Note how attitude to problems reflects and projects attitudes toward God
 - This is nothing short of departure from the living God. Dt 28:47-48, *"Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things; ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD shall send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you."*
 - Testing: from the charge of the mosquito to the charge of the elephant---from the walls of Jericho to the blood, sweat, and tears of the Canaanite battles.

- ✓ The power of FR in doctrinal and philosophical rationales illustrated by Moses, the intercessor, Num 14:19-22.
 - FR's appeal to the character of God (אֱלֹהֵינוּ לִפְנֵי). The ground of appeal is in the very nature of God, 14:19.
 - FR's appeal to God's past dealings. God is immutable: His past forgiveness guarantees future forgiveness, 14:19.
 - Forgiveness guarantees the removal of separation or alienation from God but it does not remove natural consequences, 14:20-22.

- ✓ Failure of Moses some thirty years later with the new generation at the same spot, Num 20:11-13. Moses failure to use FRT due to MAS. Every PT must be on guard about becoming bitter and SR due to negative volition. He needs to admonish but then live and let live. He must live his own life before the Lord and focus on those who are interested.
- ✓ Moses' recovery as reflected in the oldest psalm in the Bible, Psa 90, especially 90:7-12.
- ✓ NT warnings about failure to use FR, Heb 3:7-15, 19; 4:1-16; 1 Pet 5:6-7 with James 4:6.

5. The blessed power of FR

- ✓ **Isa 40:29-31**, He gives (נִתַּן) strength (כֹּחַ) to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power (עֲצָמָה יִרְבֶּה).³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly,³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.
- ✓ **Isaiah 41:10** 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

- ✓ **Psalm 37:4-5**, Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

- ✓ **Psa 46:1**, God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

- ✓ **Psalm 55:22** Cast your burden upon the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

- ✓ **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

- ✓ **Philip 4:12-13** I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
- ✓ **1 Cor 10:13**, No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

- ✓ **2 Corinthians 5:6** Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight-- ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 10:4**, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *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,

- ✓ **2 Peter 1:3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
- ✓ **Deuteronomy 31:6** "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."

6. FR can face and defeat any and all difficulties in life by orienting us to divine viewpoint (e.g. suffering, AC, the issues of SL, growth), where we can see things as God sees them and live within the doctrinal realities of His Word. The Plan of God is perfect! With FR we get our eyes off of the problems of life and back on God, the SL, the POG, & God's faithfulness.

7. With FR we tap back into the perfect plan by getting our eyes off of the problem and on the solution to the problem. The believer can solve any problem through FR.
8. FR requires genuine humility, 1 Pet 5:5-6---which means that you are going to have to humble yourself under adverse conditions---life with things you do not like!
9. FR is able to keep away fear and anxiety which are always pernicious to the spiritual life. With FR we can trust God and move forward. Consider the power of FR with David. Whether you know a lot or a little, FR is for every believer---from a single passage to huge doctrinal rationales. FR is the only way to really get us reconnected to the POG and move us away from our own machinations and advance us in the PPOG.

56:12. Reversion recovery. Really getting back to a dedicated life to God and appreciation of His matchless grace. Personal love for God provides powerful motivation, Rom 12:1; 2 Cor 5:14.

56:13.

1. FR sees God's deliverances as already accomplished. David is still in the thick of trouble, but he knows God will deliver him. FR provides amazing confidence; the same confidence David had with Goliath are returned.
2. David was only able to get to this point through the various doctrines in the previous verses—from panic to confidence.
3. God has delivered our souls from eternal death which means that He has already done the most difficult for us.

4. God's goal in all of our deliverances is that we would return to Him. Active fellowship with God is the foundation to everything in life and the great reason He orders the events around our lives. Let us see to it that God's purpose is our resolve, and that we do not lose the good of any troubles.
5. Active fellowship
 - a. Walking with God emphasizes pure F-ship, Gen 5:24.
 - b. Walking before God emphasizes the adjustments in F-ship necessary to maintain & grow to maturity, Gen 17:1.
 - c. Walking after God emphasizes pursuing God in F-ship---growing in greater understanding of God, Dt 13:4; Philip 3.
6. "May walk." Again, God's goal in all deliverances is to get us back to walking in the light of His plan. Working? David in essence makes a vow of returning to walking in F-ship.

7. The light of the living corresponds to walking in fellowship with God. The sunshine of the super grace life is in contrast to the darkness of carnality and spiritual ignorance.
8. The light of the living refers to the spiritual life. The ones who really live are those who live in Christ: He lightens their lives.
9. The light of the living would include illumination from God as to His Being and His path for us. The believer who lives in light of God will live in the sunshine of His plan as per divine guidance.
- 10. John 8:12** *Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

11. The Church Age believer has far more opportunities for much deeper fellowship with God than David or any OT believer.
12. After Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, He poured out the HS *into* believers to take up residency inside them--- prior to that the HS was only outside/alongside believers,
 - ✓ **John 14:17** *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you (ὅτι παρ' ὑμῶν μένει καὶ ἐν ὑμῶν ἔσται).
13. The HS takes up residence within the life of the believer, not only thereby to unite him to Christ but to experientially work the holiness of Christ in his life.

14. Now Christ lives in the believer (and the invisible church) through the indwelling Holy Spirit, Jn 14:16-20.

✓ John 14:18, I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

15. The inner presence of the Holy Spirit gives the believer the supernatural dynamics for the unique spiritual life in the church age.

✓ **John 14:16-17** "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.

16. It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to point to Christ just as it is the ministry of Christ to reveal God/Father.

- ✓ **John 15:26** "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me,
- ✓ **John 16:14**, "He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.
- ✓ **John 14:7** "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ 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 do you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

17. Christ is our life. This vital union between Christ and the believer is expressed by a number of metaphors. **Colossians 3:4** *When Christ, who is our life (ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν), is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

- **The Body of Christ** metaphor emphasizes Christ's sovereign leadership of the church and His sustenance for our lives,
- Col 2:19b . . . holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

- **The Temple of God** metaphor emphasizes the foundation and habitation of God.

- ✓ **2 Cor 6:16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

- ✓ **1 Cor 3:11** For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- ✓ **1 Peter 2:5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- **The Priest** analogy emphasize access to God, the service of sacrifice, and the service of witness.

- ✓ **1 Pet. 2:4** And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- ✓ **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- **The Bridegroom-Bride** analogy emphasizes Christ's love for the church as manifested by loving, nourishing and cherishing her. Marriage is an exclusive devoted love. The 3 stages of marriage in the ANE.

1st Stage, betrothal (church age),

- **2 Cor 11:2** *For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.*

2nd Stage: Rapture. The bride is taken to the Groom.

- **1 Thess 4:16-17** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (ἀρπαγησόμεθα) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with (πάντοτε σὺν) the Lord.

3rd Stage: Consummation of the marriage (Marriage Supper),

- **Revelation 19:7** "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." ⁸ And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts (τὰ δικαιώματα) of the saints. ⁹ And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

- **The outworking of the husband's love via JC**
 - ❖ **Ephesians 5:25,29** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her . . . Nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church.
 - ❖ **1 Pet 3:7**, You husbands in the same way [!], live with (συνοικοῦντες) your wives in an understanding way (κατὰ γνῶσιν) as with someone weaker (certainly not weaker mentally, spiritually, or socially).

- **The outworking of the wife's submission via JC**
 - ❖ **1 Pet 3:1, 6**, in the same way [!] . . . just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (κύριον) . . .

- **The Shepherd and His flock** metaphor emphasizes His sacrificial love, tender care, protection, and nourishment for His sheep---OT and NT.
 - ✓ **Psalm 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 - ✓ **Psalm 79:13** So we Thy people and the sheep of Thy pasture Will give thanks to Thee forever; To all generations we will tell of Thy praise.
 - ✓ **Psalm 100:3** Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

- **John 10:9** "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

- ✓ **John 10:11** "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

- **The Vine and the branches** (OT and NT) emphasize the organic union, and the fruit of that union. Abiding in Him means life and fruitfulness; apart from Him there is worthlessness/deadwood. Note the vital relationship.
- ✓ **John 15:1-5**, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He lifts up (αἶρει); and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken (λελάληκα) to you. 4 "Abide in Me (μείνατε ἐν ἐμοί), and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." Compare Romans 7:15-25.