

Jesus Christ = The Lord of the Church

Holy Spirit

Under-shepherds:
Guard Self,
Serve/teach JC,
Edify sheep w/
whole Counsel,
Protect flock,
against heresy

Holy Spirit

Bible Doctrine

Holy Spirit

The Believer's Living Relationship with Jesus Christ – the Abundant Life, Jn 10:10. Christ living in and through the believer through the Holy Spirit

Philosophy of Ministry (Biblical Road Map; Spiritual Context; Presups)

- ✓ The 2 mandates: guard self, pastor/teach the sheep, Acts 20:17-32; 1 Pet 5:2-3; Heb 13:17; Jn 21:15-17; Eph 4:12-16; 1 Tim 5:1; Tit 1:9
- ✓ Three lens approach: salvation, spirituality, and edification in teaching-oversight of the local church = healthy sheep and flock
- ✓ Alternative = focus on pastor's preferences; what wows him; unbalanced; hobby horse theology; result = sick flock.

Apostles/Doctrine = Foundation of the Church, Eph 2:20

Natural and Spiritual Leadership

Natural Leader

1. Self-confident
2. Knows men
3. Makes his own decisions
4. Ambitious
5. Originates his own methods
6. Enjoys commanding others
7. Motivated by personal considerations
8. Independent

Spiritual/doctrinal leader

1. Confident in God
2. Also knows God
3. Seeks to find God's will
4. Self-effacing
5. Finds and follows God's methods
6. Delights to obey God
7. Motivated by love for God and man
8. God-dependent

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).

1. Faith rest (FR) is the means of tapping into the fantastic promises (τίμια καὶ μέγιστα ἑπαγγέλματα) granted to you (δεδώρηται) by God, 2 Pet. 1:4.
2. FR is also known as the faith rest *drill* to emphasize the need for practice/drilling until it becomes second nature, cf. David in preparation as a shepherd before facing Goliath.
3. The new believer must be taught FR very soon after being taught the need for 1 John 1:9 (which itself is critical for cleansing, fellowship, and spiritual production).
4. FR simply put is the application of Bible doctrine to the challenges of life. This includes the promise along with the embedded theological and philosophical rationales.

5. You cannot grow apart from FR because you cannot grow apart from applying the WOG to the issues of life.
6. FR is not some non-descript attitude of just trusting in Jesus, God, or faith in faith. FR is specific.
7. The progressive nature of FR is indicated by “walking by faith.” As you learn more BD you advance in the spiritual life to greater FR and appreciation of supreme goodness of God, cf. Eph 1:3-14.
8. In FR the WOG becomes more real to you than the ups and downs of your emotions or any devastating circumstance.
9. It is God the HS who enables us to use FR. He enables us to grasp the promises and live with absolute confidence and perfect peace.

10. FR is not wishful thinking or positive thinking about your own plans or desires. FR is firmly trusting in the promises of God. Faith is a transitive verb that requires an object and in our case the object is what is stated in the Word of God. Faith is *not* an act of righteousness.
11. Our contact with God is not based on any human merit or religiosity, it is based on contact with His Word. The issue is trusting God with childlike faith which should never be confused with childish faith.
12. Every challenge in life is handled by FR in some form, from confession of sin to the reality of Christ dwelling in us.
13. FR is designed not only to handle our problems and advance us up the Glory Road, it also is the means of orienting us to the self-disclosure of God through His propositional truth---instead of by personal experience (which by itself is always inadequate). To be a friend of God (φίλος θεοῦ) requires knowing Him through the WOG and the HS.

14. Only by FR can we gain the benefit of absolute Truth and start with deductive truth rather than the fragmentary nature of inductive truth, 2 Cor 5:7, “for we walk by means of faith, not by means sight.” Neither empiricism (sight) or rationalism can reach God, universals, or the things that matter the most, e.g. love, truth, value, hope, God. Your senses cannot reveal to you the true nature of God.
15. Walking by faith is how we walk by the Holy Spirit. Walking by the Holy Spirit is not some mystical experience.
16. We must know the promises of God before we can claim the promises of God, Mat 4:4.
17. Faith *rest* is resting and relaxing in the promises of God. As David said while he was in SG, “the battle is the Lord’s.”

18. A look at some of the promises of God.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **Isaiah 40:28** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power. ³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD Will ~~gain new~~ exchange (גִּלְגָּל) strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.
 - Note the attributes of God.
 - Note the *exchange* of human power for divine power.

- ✓ **Psalm 18:2** The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- ✓ **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 (μεμύημαι) 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."

19. 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.

20. FR requires genuine humility, 1 Pet 5:5-9.

- The need to humble ourselves under adverse circumstances.
- Unfair authority orientation.
- Note the issues of arrogance, independence, and Satan.
- God cares about every detail of your life. He is deeply interested in you and provided a perfect plan.
- Humility or independence/arrogance/autonomy.

21. FR is the only way to keep away fear and anxiety which are always pernicious to the spiritual life. With FR we trust God and move forward. FR is the only way to really stop with our own machinations, reconnect us to the POG, and move us forward.

- **Philippians 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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.
2. David was only able to get to this point through the various doctrines in the previous verses—from panic to absolute confidence.
3. God has delivered our souls from eternal death, which means that He has already solved the most difficult problem, spiritual death and alienation from God.

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; Php 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 includes 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 in 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 CA believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit, Jn 14:16-20.

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

15. The inner presence of the Holy Spirit gives the believer the supernatural dynamics for the unique spiritual life of 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 (and make a home inside of us for) 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 14:8-9** 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 '?

17. Christ is our life and the vital union between Christ and the believer is expressed by a number of metaphors.

Colossians 3:4, . . . *Christ, who is our life* (ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν)

- **The Body of Christ** metaphor emphasizes the CA believer's dependence upon the leadership of Christ as the Head, & His sustenance.
- 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 CA believer as being the 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 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 emphasizes the CA believer's 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 CA believer as manifested by loving, nourishing and cherishing her. Marriage is an exclusive devoted love. There were 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 (ἄρπαγησόμεθα) 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 (συνουκοῦντες) 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 the believer's dependence upon the sacrificial love, tender care, protection, and nourishment from the Chief Shepherd.
 - ✓ **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 branch metaphor** emphasize the organic union of the CA believer with Christ. Abiding in Him means life and fruitfulness; apart from Him there is worthlessness/deadwood/spiritual barrenness.
- ✓ **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 (αῖρει); 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.