

LIVING BY DESIGN

← THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE →



Second Edition

JOHN STEPHEN MANGAM

DEAR READER, THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING TO READ THIS BOOK.

I DO HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND THE CONTENT VERY HELPFUL.

THIS SHORT BOOK ADDRESSES THE QUESTIONS LIKE:

♥ WAS THERE A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING AT ALL?

♥ WHERE DID IT GO WRONG?

♥ WAS THE KEY ISSUE FIXED?

♥ WHY IS IT NOT SO BEAUTIFUL AROUND?

♥ HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THIS LIFE?

♥ WHAT'S GOD'S DESIGN FOR THIS LIFE?

♥ WHERE ARE WE HEADING?

♥ WHAT ARE WE TO BE CAUTIOUS OF?

♥ IS THERE A BEAUTIFUL ENDING AT ALL?

THIS IS A FREE-TO-SHARE BOOK!

IF YOU FIND THIS BOOK HELPFUL, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.

Feel free to share your questions or feedback to

Email: hello@johnmangam.com

Telegram/WhatsApp: +919493507025

Latest version of the book is available at

www.johnmangam.com/life

ON THE MOTHER'S DAY OF 2024 (SECOND SUNDAY OF MAY)

THIS IS DEDICATED TO MY MOM

SUGUNA TEKUMALLA

WHO

HUMBLY & COURAGEOUSLY

TREAD THE PATH

OF

TRUTH, FREEDOM & PURPOSE

BY CONSTANTLY SEEKING GRACE AND HELP

FROM GOD



www.johnmangam.com/life

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE BEGINNINGS

Good News! Isn't it?

Where do I go from here?

How can I be Saved?

Am I Saved?

FAQ around Salvation

The Overview of Faith Journey

THE PROGRESS

Knowing and Pleasing God - Introduction

Believers' Framework - Knowing and Pleasing God

KNOWING GOD

The Introduction

The Bible & its Metanarrative

The Doctrines

Theology - Systematic Theology & Biblical Theology

Bible Characters

The Apostles teaching

God's Will - Revealed & Specific Will of God

Hermeneutics

CHURCH HISTORY

The Need of Learning

Key contributions

Creeds and Confessions

False Teachings

False Teachers

LOCAL CHURCH

Introduction

Spiritual Gifts

Concerns

THE CHURCH AT LARGE

Wider Fellowship Benefits

Ministry Avenues

PERSONAL

Overview

Purpose & Goals

Spiritual Growth

Bible Study

Worship & Praise

Thanksgiving

Prayer

Fruit of the Spirit

Christ-likeness

Introspection

Temptations

Spiritual Warfare

Responsibilities

Ministry

FAMILY

Choosing Life Partner

Purpose

Responsibilities

COMMUNITIES

Our Role

Our Responsibilities

WORK & BUSINESS

Role in Workplace

Role in Marketplace

WORLD

Our Role in the World

Evangelism

Persecution

THE FUTURE

Our Future - What Next?

Rewards for Believers

Are we in the End Times?

Heaven

Acknowledgements

I humbly and gratefully acknowledge that
we do stand on the shoulders of giants of faith,
including Theologians, and Bible Teachers
from both the past and the present.

Their contributions have been of
immense help to me in compiling this book.

Chat-GPT has been of immense help
in instantly gathering the needed details,
without which it could have taken ages
for me to compile this book.

I thank God for the **Punoca Inc** team:
Evelyn Agbossey Dimado & Ella Yamili De Gracia Veille
for their encouragement.

Union of Evangelical Students of India (UESI) &
Noble Missionary Church, Church of South-India (CSI)
have been of great help to me personally.

I thank God for all
the **Bible Teachers, Speakers and Members** of
Kutumba Shubam Fellowship (KSF)
for their help in my spiritual growth.

Dr. Sundar Babu Isukapati deserves a special mention
for recommending the structural change
of the Believer's Framework table to the right infographic format.
I thank God for him and for his kind review
of several sections of this book.

I thank God for my dad, **M. C. Paul**, a Bible Teacher,
who has been very resourceful all along,
patiently answering all my questions.



The Beginnings

www.johnmangam.com/life

Good News! Isn't it?



2. Fall

- They rebelled against God and disobeyed, breaking the fellowship with Him.
- This SIN brought eternal death as punishment to all of us since we all inherit this SIN.
- All of us commit sins because our nature was corrupted and sinful.

4. Crucifixion

- Jesus, born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit, lived a righteous life and willingly shed His holy blood for us on the cross taking the punishment for all our sins.
- His human death paid the price for our redemption, offering us forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

6. Salvation

- Salvation is a free gift from God, received by grace through faith in Jesus and not by our good works.
- By believing Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we can be saved. We become the children of God.
- Now, let us leave the old ways and walk in the new life.
- We no longer live for ourselves but for Him.

1. Creation

- God beautifully created this marvelous world. You are marvelous!
- He created man and woman and blessed them.
- He created them in His own image, with the purpose of having an eternal fellowship with them.

3. Redemption

- God the Father, in His love, sent His Son Jesus Christ (God the Son) into the world to save us from SINs and to make peace with God.
- Jesus, being God, came down from heaven to pay the price for our sins by shedding His holy blood thereby reconciling us to God Himself. He was 100% God and 100% man.

5. Resurrection

- Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after burial, conquering sin and death.
- His resurrection offers new life of righteousness and eternal hope to be with Him forever for all who believe in Him.
- Jesus went to be seated with the Father in heaven and He sent Holy Spirit, God the Spirit to be with us.

7. Transformation

- Through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, believers are transformed and empowered to live for God day by day.
- We may fall in sin, but we wouldn't continue in it. God forgives us and disciplines us so that we live for Him.
- We grow in His Word and obey Him in everything for His glory. In Heaven, for eternity, we shall be with Him forever.

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

In the beginning, we were beautifully made in the likeness of God in character to have eternal fellowship with Him.

Adamic SIN made us enemies with God.
All of us Inherit this SIN by birth.

**SIN's Eternal
consequences**

**Separation
from God
forever
&
Eternal
Punishment**

Good News!
**By Grace through
Faith
in Jesus Christ
we can be saved and
made God's Children.**

Jesus shed His holy blood for our redemption. We are justified as righteous due to the righteousness of Jesus. We are declared righteous and are saved forever. All of us who are saved are called the Body of Christ.

Through God's Word, the Bible, we grow daily into righteousness and become like Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit who is in us. We are sanctified throughout our life. If we sin again we are disciplined. God who is in us is greater than the Devil who is in the world.

One day Jesus shall take us to Him and we shall live with Him for eternity.

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

When the Gospel, the Good News is known, faith is built up in us about God's loving rescue of us, by God Himself.

We know it is true that we are sinful and deserve eternal condemnation and separation from God but the love of God didn't forsake us.

We understand that Jesus though being God came down from heaven to live with us as human and to pay the price of all of our sins.

We understand that Jesus shed His holy blood and died for us on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

We understand that Jesus was buried and rose again on the third day to life.

We understand that He would come again to take us with Him.

Now that we understand this truth, all we need to do to be saved and become children of God is to

simply believe in Jesus, which means placing our trust in Jesus.

If we believe in Jesus and His Work for our Salvation from our sins, He saves us instantly, makes us His children, and grants us eternal life.

Have you believed in Jesus?

The moment we believe in Jesus, He makes us a New Creation. He seals us with His Holy Spirit and He makes us His children and He shall take care of us forever.

If you have (believed) placed your trust in Jesus for salvation, you are His Child, a New Creation. He shall lead you in His Word, the Bible with the help of His Holy Spirit who is given to be within you and empower you.

If you have believed, you are a child of God and you have been given the Holy Spirit to be with you and to empower you till the coming of Jesus. God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

By the Good News of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, God gave us faith ("pistis" πίστις) and we believed ("pisteuo" πιστεύω) in Him.
[Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:17, Romans 10:9, John 3:16]

God will lead us in this New Life through His Word, the Bible. He will empower us by His Holy Spirit who is given to us when we believe and lead us for His glory through the rest of our earthy journey till we meet Him.

www.johnmangam.com/life

AM I SAVED?

The Bible, God's Word shared us about His free gift of Salvation through His Son Jesus Christ to us who are unworthy and helpless to be granted Eternal Life by His Amazing grace not by any of our works. We just accepted His gift. By the Good News of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, God gave us faith ("pistis" πίστις) and we believed ("pisteuo" πιστεύω) in Him. [Romans 10:17, Romans 10:9]

1. John 10:28-29 (NIV): "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."
2. Romans 8:16 (NIV): The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
3. Romans 10:9 (NIV): "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
4. 1 John 5:13 (NIV): "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."
5. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV): "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."
6. John 3:16 (NIV): "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
7. Romans 8:38-39 (NIV): "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
8. 2 Timothy 1:12 (NIV): "That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."

How to overcome Sin?

We are powerless by ourselves but God has given us His Holy Spirit to be within us and to empower us to lead a life that's pleasing to God showing obedience to His Word, the Bible. So, when we rely on the Holy Spirit, we can overcome any sin and be victorious in life. (Romans 8:11, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

How does God discipline us?

At times, we may willfully commit a sin but we don't continue in it. When we commit a sin, we will be lovingly disciplined by God. This loving discipline could be of any sort for God alone knows what best disciplines us so that we rely on the Holy Spirit and flee from such disobedience. In no way does God encourage sin, so His loving discipline is not to play with by any chance. We don't lose salvation for it is Eternal Life that He granted us but His loving discipline could even shorten the life on earth. Hence, we can't afford to play with any sin. (Hebrews 12:5-11, Acts 5:1-11 & 1 Corinthians 11:29-32)

SALVATION – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God, who is eternally co-existent with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He is God. He came as a human through virgin birth to save us all from our sins. We call it hypostatic union, Jesus being 100% God and 100% man while He was here on earth. Now He is with the Father in Heaven.

What was the work of Jesus? Jesus as a human paid the price for our sins. He was the only capable Lamb of God to redeem us through His holy blood. He was crucified, bled, died and rose again. He rose again and is now with the Father. Jesus played the role of a Prophet, Priest, and King in redeeming us.

Made Righteous, Found Righteous, Declared Righteous? We are declared righteous based on the work of Jesus Christ; Positionally we are righteous but our Condition gets better day by day.

We're given the Holy Spirit: The moment we are saved, we are given eternal life and the Holy Spirit indwells us and strengthens us to live for Him. He gives us power to overcome temptations. Holy life is possible only with His help.

New Creation: The moment we are saved, we are made a new creation. We are made anew. We are adopted children of God walking in the newness of Eternal Life.

Baptized with the Holy Spirit: The moment we are saved we are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Water baptism will help us make a public declaration and helps us be part of any local church.

Being Filled with the Holy Spirit: Being filled is relying fully on the Holy Spirit and yielding completely to Him, bearing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit by being obedient to God's Word.

Growing into Christ-likeness: It is God's desire that we live no longer for ourselves but for Him, growing into the likeness of His Son Jesus Christ with the help of His Holy Spirit.

Given a Spiritual Gift(s): All of us are given at least one Spiritual Gift that is to be used for God's glory with the help of the Holy Spirit.

We've got God's Word: The Bible is the supreme authority for us and we are its subjects. Let's study in the way it ought to be studied.

We've got the Good News: In Jesus' great commission, He commanded all of us to spread the Gospel and make them disciples to Jesus.

Is Salvation eternal or can we loose it? It is Eternal Life and we are kept by God's power. If we sin, He forgives us but we get disciplined for our disobedience. We don't loose our salvation but we grieve Him and bear the consequences.

THE OVERVIEW OF FAITH JOURNEY

God beautifully created Adam and Eve in His image
but they sinned against God by disobeying Him.
They received the punishment of eternal death.
We inherit their sin. We are sinful by birth.

Out of God's great love for us, He sent His Son Jesus to pay the price of our Sins.

Jesus being God, took upon the flesh of man
to be a perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God.

Jesus is the greatest of the Prophets, Greatest High Priest, and the King of Kings.
He shed His precious blood for the atonement and remission of our sins.
He died and rose again on the third day.

Once we believe (place our trust) only in
the person of Jesus Christ and in His work for our salvation, we get saved.
God makes us His children and gives us eternal Life.
He declared us Righteous.

God seals us with His Holy Spirit as a guarantee.
He baptizes us in His Holy Spirit.
He makes us part of His body, the invisible universal Church.

The Holy Spirit leads us into Truth and indwells us and gives us the strength
to overcome Sin and Obey God.
God sanctifies us and makes us holier day by day. When we sin against Him,
He forgives us and disciplines us so that we don't sin again.
We ought to Live for Him not for ourselves.

His Word, the Bible helps us know Him more and
His Design for our lives that we may carry out His Will in our lives.

We are to Love God and others and be active in Spreading the Good News and
building others. We are to Live for Him and be Good Stewards.

He gives us at least one Spiritual Gift for ministry.
Let's be active in fellowship
and get to know eventually what our gifts are
so that we could use them for His glory.

We enjoy the fellowship with God and with our co-believers.
If we die, we shall be with Jesus forever.
If we are still alive, He comes and takes us where He is.



The Progress

www.johnmangam.com/life

BELIEVER'S FRAMEWORK – KNOWING AND PLEASING GOD

Now that we are firm in our understanding that God lavished an eternal love on us and made us His children and a new creation to live for Him, we ought to know more about Him, His Ways and His Design to dearly follow Him.

We ought to know His design for our lives collectively and individually, how He wants everything to function for His glory.

The Design of God for our lives is quite complex and we need to fully rely on His Holy Spirit to align with it and go by it. We will fail Him miserably if we try to know and do things on our own.

That's why we ought to fully rely on the Holy Spirit for His help in order to understand God's Word and to obey everything in it all through our lives.

Let's dive into the Design of God for His children:

- We are given the Holy Spirit to live in us till we meet our Lord. He empowers us and is grieved when we sin against Him. (1 Corinthians 6:19, Romans 8:9, Ephesians 1:13 & 14)
- If we fall into sin, we will be forgiven and we shall not lose our salvation. However, we need to pay the price for our disobedience. Some have even lost their lives. God lovingly chastises and disciplines us so that we live for Him. (1 John 1:9, Hebrews 12:6, Acts 5:1-11, 1 Corinthians 11:29-30)
- We are given the Bible to understand it with the help of the Holy Spirit through the teachings of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers & Pastors. (Ez. 36:27 & Eph 4: 11)
- As children of God, we are to grow in the knowledge of God through His Word, that is the 66 books of the Bible.
- We are to understand that the Knowledge comes first and then the practice. The more we know about God, the more we could live in Biblical obedience with the help of His Holy Spirit.
- He wants us to be effective in growing in the knowledge of God and live our personal and collective lives together for His glory.
- We are to be careful with misinterpretations of God's Word and the twisting of it that is done ignorantly and deliberately.
- In our theological journey, we can base our beliefs solely on the Bible considering the Church History Legacy of Evangelicals, rather than seeing completely through the lens of Calvinist or Arminian doctrinal frameworks.
- We are to live responsibly as God wants us to be Salt and Light in this world.
- Abundant life is Christ-Like living that carries out God's Will so that He may be glorified in every aspect of our lives as we prepare ourselves to meet Him and to be with Him forever.

Continued..

www.johnmangam.com/life

BELIEVER'S FRAMEWORK

KNOWING GOD AND PLEASING HIM



Knowing God

God

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|---|---|--|--|
| Existence of God | God's existence is foundational to all Christian doctrine and is both self-evident and revealed through Scripture. | - Self-evident and necessary for faith, Revealed in creation and Scripture | Psalms 19:1-2; Romans 1:19-20; Hebrews 11:6 |
| Nature of God | God is spirit, personal, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. | - Spirit and personal, Immutable and eternal, Perfect in attributes | John 4:24; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; 1 John 4:8 |
| Sovereignty of God | God possesses supreme authority and control over all creation, directing all things to fulfill His purposes. | - Supreme ruler and authority, Predestines and directs history | Psalms 103:19; Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35 |
| Holiness of God | God is morally and ethically perfect, set apart from all sin and evil. | - Moral perfection and purity, Separation from sin | Leviticus 19:2; Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:16 |
| Love of God | God's love is unconditional, sacrificial, and redemptive, demonstrated supremely in Jesus Christ. | - Unconditional and sacrificial, Demonstrated through Jesus | John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10 |
| Justice and Righteousness of God | God's justice and righteousness ensure that He always acts in accordance with what is right and is faithful in administering justice. | - Perfectly just and righteous, Faithful in judgment | Psalms 89:14; Romans 3:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 |
| Omnipotence of God | God is all-powerful, able to do all things that are in harmony with His character. | - All-powerful and able, His power is limited only by His character | Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26 |
| Omniscience of God | God is all-knowing, fully understanding past, present, and future events, including the thoughts and actions of all beings. | - All-knowing, Understands all reality completely | Psalms 139:1-4; Isaiah 46:9-10; Hebrews 4:13 |
| Omnipresence of God | God's presence encompasses all creation, without being physically confined to any part of it. | - Present everywhere, Not limited by space | Psalms 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28 |
| Immutability of God | God is unchanging in His being, perfections, purposes, and promises. | - Unchanging and constant, Faithfulness through all generations | Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17 |
| Trinity | God eternally exists as three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in one essence, coequal and coeternal. | - One God in three persons, Coequality and coeternality of the persons | Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:3-14 |

Knowing God

God made Himself known through His Word, the Bible

Overview of the Bible

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, consisting of the Old and New Testaments. It serves as the authoritative text for Christians, guiding faith, doctrine, and practice.

Its Importance

The Bible is central to Christian life as it reveals God's character, His plan for humanity, and provides the foundation for Christian beliefs and behaviors. It's considered God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

Background

Written over a span of approximately 1,500 years by more than 40 authors from diverse backgrounds, the Bible's unity despite diversity reflects its divine inspiration. It encompasses a variety of literary genres, including history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom literature, and gospel, originally written in Hebrew, Greek and a little in Aramaic languages.

Metanarrative

The Bible presents a cohesive story of redemption, from Creation, Fall, and Redemption to Restoration. It centers on God's plan to restore a fallen world through Jesus Christ, empower them with the Holy Spirit, revealing God's ultimate sovereignty and love for humanity.

Law Categories

The Law in the Old Testament can be categorized into moral, ceremonial, and civil laws. Moral laws reflect God's character and are timeless; ceremonial laws were specific to Israel's worship and pointed to Christ; civil laws governed the daily living of Israel as a nation.

Jews & Gentiles

The Bible addresses both Jews and Gentiles, highlighting God's plan to bring salvation to all people through faith in Jesus Christ. Jews are God's chosen people through whom the Messiah came, while Gentiles are non-Jews included in God's salvation plan post-Christ's resurrection, making the gospel's reach universal, transcending ethnic and cultural barriers. (Ephesians 3:6, Romans 11:17-24).

Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics is the science and art of interpreting the Bible. It encompasses various principles and methods aimed at understanding the original meaning of the biblical text and its application to contemporary contexts. Effective hermeneutics requires careful consideration of the Bible's genres, historical and cultural backgrounds, and the unity of Scripture.

www.johnmangam.com/life

Knowing God > The Bible

The Metanarrative – Bigger story of the Bible

| Broader Category | Sub-Category | Meta-Narrative | Key Events | Bible References | Explanation |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Creation | Origins | Creation | Creation of the world and humanity | Genesis 1-2 | God creates the universe, the earth, and humanity in His image, assigning them stewardship over creation and providing them with everything needed for life. |
| Fall | Rebellion | Fall and Consequences | Adam and Eve's disobedience, Cain and Abel | Genesis 3-4 | Humanity sins by disobeying God, leading to their expulsion from Eden and the spread of sin throughout the world, with Cain murdering Abel as an early result. |
| Redemption | Covenantal History | Covenant Promises | Abrahamic Covenant, Isaac and Jacob, Joseph in Egypt | Genesis 12-50 | God promises Abraham descendants, land, and blessings. This covenant is reaffirmed through Isaac and Jacob, leading to the survival of Jacob's family in Egypt under Joseph. |

Knowing God > The Bible The Metanarrative – II

| Broader Category | Sub-Category | Meta-Narrative | Key Events | Bible | Explanation |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Redemption | Exodus and Law | Exodus and Law | Moses, Ten Plagues, Red Sea, Ten Commandments | Exodus 1-40; Leviticus 1-27 | God delivers Israel from Egyptian slavery and provides them with the Law at Mount Sinai to guide their relationship with Him. |
| | Conquest and Leadership | Conquest and Judges | Joshua's leadership, Conquest of Canaan, Cycle of the Judges | Joshua 1-24; Judges 1-21 | Israel conquers the Promised Land under Joshua. In the period of the Judges, Israel undergoes cycles of sin, repentance, and deliverance. |
| | Kingdom Period | United and Divided Kingdoms | Saul, David, Solomon, Division of Israel and Judah | 1 Samuel 1-31; 2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Kings 1-22; 2 Kings 1-25 | Israel is ruled by kings, first as a united kingdom, and then it divides into the northern kingdom (Israel) and southern kingdom (Judah). |
| | Exile and Return | Exile and Return | Assyrian and Babylonian Exiles, Return of Judah | 2 Kings 17-25; Ezra 1-10; Nehemiah 1-13 | After the northern and southern kingdoms are exiled, Judah returns to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. |
| | Prophetic Foretelling | Messianic Prophecies | Prophecies about Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection | Isaiah 53; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9; Psalms 22 | Numerous Old Testament prophecies predict the coming of a Messiah, Jesus Christ, who fulfills these prophecies, confirming His divine mission and the truth of God's Word. |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Metanarrative – III

| Broader Category | Sub-Category | Meta-Narrative | Key Events | Bible | Explanation |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | Prophetic Warnings | Judgment and Salvation | Warnings to Israel and Judah, prophecies of national restoration | Jeremiah 25:11; Isaiah 40:1-5; Hosea 11 | Prophets warn of impending judgment due to sin but also promise future salvation and restoration, emphasizing God's mercy and justice. |
| | Messianic Fulfillment | Coming of Christ | Birth of Jesus, Ministry, Death, Resurrection | Matthew 1-28; Mark 1-16; Luke 1-24; John 1-21 | Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies, offering redemption through His ministry, death, and resurrection. |
| Restoration | Apostolic Era | Church Age and the Great Commission | Apostolic Era, Paul's Journeys, Letters to Churches | Acts 1-28; Romans to Jude | The apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit, spread the Gospel, build the church, and fulfill the Great Commission. |
| | End Times | New Creation and Consummation | Second Coming of Christ, New Heaven and New Earth | Revelation 19-22 | At the end of the age, Christ returns to judge and establish His everlasting kingdom, creating a new heaven and new earth, free from sin and death. |

Knowing God > The Bible

The Doctrines

The doctrines are based on passed on teachings
and are foundational to our Christian Faith.

In the Church History legacy, the Evangelicals have held to most of these doctrines with variations on Free Will. However, even if there is a minor variation, within Trinity, or about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we ought to be cautious of such false teaching.

For instance, 1 John 2:22 says, Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. Such is the seriousness of teaching that diverges from these doctrines about Trinity.

In our theological journey, we could just be Evangelicals and base beliefs solely on the Bible considering the Church History Legacy of Evangelicals, rather than see completely through the lens of Calvinist or Arminian doctrinal frameworks.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- We believe in One God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, their co-existence and co-equality.
- We believe in the Sovereignty of God, the Election and the Free Will of humans to choose or reject God, based on the Bible; we acknowledge the mystery of their interplay.
- We believe in the Supreme Authority of the Bible as the Word of God.
- We believe in the Adamic Sin and its consequences for the humanity.
- We believe in the Redemption through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was born of the Holy Spirit to virgin Mary, His sinless life, death on the cross, burial, resurrection and His intercession, seated at the right hand of God the Father.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit's work of conviction of Sin in an unbeliever. His indwelling, transformative and empowering work in the life of a believer.
- We believe faith is generated by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel in a sinner and that the personal belief of the sinner leads to justification.
- We believe in the universal Church, the body of Christ to which all the believers (Jews & Gentiles) belong.
- We believe in the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to totally destroy the work of Satan.

Minor aspects of differences in Practices may not matter.
However, the Biblical Doctrines are uncompromisable. [1 Timothy 4:16, Titus 2:1]

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines

God

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|---|---|--|--|
| Existence of God | God's existence is foundational to all Christian doctrine and is both self-evident and revealed through Scripture. | - Self-evident and necessary for faith, Revealed in creation and Scripture | Psalms 19:1-2; Romans 1:19-20; Hebrews 11:6 |
| Nature of God | God is spirit, personal, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. | - Spirit and personal, Immutable and eternal, Perfect in attributes | John 4:24; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; 1 John 4:8 |
| Sovereignty of God | God possesses supreme authority and control over all creation, directing all things to fulfill His purposes. | - Supreme ruler and authority, Predestines and directs history | Psalms 103:19; Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35 |
| Holiness of God | God is morally and ethically perfect, set apart from all sin and evil. | - Moral perfection and purity, Separation from sin | Leviticus 19:2; Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:16 |
| Love of God | God's love is unconditional, sacrificial, and redemptive, demonstrated supremely in Jesus Christ. | - Unconditional and sacrificial, Demonstrated through Jesus | John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10 |
| Justice and Righteousness of God | God's justice and righteousness ensure that He always acts in accordance with what is right and is faithful in administering justice. | - Perfectly just and righteous, Faithful in judgment | Psalms 89:14; Romans 3:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 |
| Omnipotence of God | God is all-powerful, able to do all things that are in harmony with His character. | - All-powerful and able, His power is limited only by His character | Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26 |
| Omniscience of God | God is all-knowing, fully understanding past, present, and future events, including the thoughts and actions of all beings. | - All-knowing, Understands all reality completely | Psalms 139:1-4; Isaiah 46:9-10; Hebrews 4:13 |
| Omnipresence of God | God's presence encompasses all creation, without being physically confined to any part of it. | - Present everywhere, Not limited by space | Psalms 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28 |
| Immutability of God | God is unchanging in His being, perfections, purposes, and promises. | - Unchanging and constant, Faithfulness through all generations | Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17 |
| Trinity | God eternally exists as three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in one essence, coequal and coeternal. | - One God in three persons, Coequality and coeternality of the persons | Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:3-14 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines

Trinity

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|--|--|--|--|
| Biblical Revelation of the Trinity | The Trinity is revealed in both the Old and New Testaments, with the New Testament providing clarity on the triune nature of God. | - Gradual Revelation, Clarity in the New Testament | Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14 |
| Unity of God | Despite the distinction of persons, there is only one God. | - Monotheism, One essence | Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6 |
| Distinction of Persons | The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons, each with personal attributes, but without division of nature or essence. | - Personal distinctions, Coequal and coeternal persons | John 15:26; John 16:13-15; John 1:1-2 |
| Co-equality and Co-eternality | The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always existed together eternally and are equal in power, glory, and honor. | - Equal in deity, Eternal existence | Philippians 2:6; John 17:5; Hebrews 9:14 |
| Economic Trinity | The distinct roles and operations of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in creation and redemption. | - Distinct roles in salvation history, Cooperative work in redemption | Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 1:2; Titus 3:4-6 |
| Ontological Trinity | The internal relationship and eternal distinctions within the Godhead, independent of God's relationship to the world. | - The internal and eternal nature of the Trinity, The relationship within the Trinity itself | John 1:1-2; John 17:24; Matthew 11:27 |
| The Trinity and Salvation | The Trinity works cooperatively in the salvation of mankind, with each person playing a unique role. | - The Father's plan, The Son's atonement, The Spirit's application of salvation | John 3:16-17; Hebrews 9:14; Ephesians 1:13-14 |
| The Trinity in Christian Life | Believers' relationship with God is trinitarian in nature, involving worship & communion. Pray to the Father in Son's name with the help of Holy Spirit. | - Worship directed to the Trinity. Holy Spirit's indwelling presence in believers. | John 4:23-24; Revelation 5:11-14; John 16:23-24; Matthew 28:19 |
| The Trinity and Christian Community | The Trinity models perfect unity and diversity, which reflects in the Christian community's call to unity in diversity. | - Model for church unity, Diversity within unity as reflected in the body of Christ | John 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines

Sovereignty of God

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Definition of Sovereignty | The belief in God's supreme power and authority over all things, both in heaven and on earth. God is sovereign in creation, providence, and salvation, acting according to His will, without external constraint or limitation. | - Supreme authority, No external constraint, Acts according to His own will | Psalms 115:3; Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35 |
| Sovereignty in Creation | God's sovereignty is manifest in the act of creation, where He brought everything into existence from nothing by His will and for His purposes. | - Creation ex nihilo, Purposeful creation | Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16 |
| Sovereignty and Providence | God's ongoing, sovereign involvement in the universe, governing all events, circumstances, and actions to fulfill His purposes. This includes His care for creation and His people. | - Governance of all things, Providential care | Nehemiah 9:6; Proverbs 16:9; Romans 8:28 |
| Sovereignty and Human Will | The doctrine that God's sovereignty perfectly coexists with human free will, highlighting the mystery of divine sovereignty and human responsibility in decisions, including accepting salvation. | - Divine sovereignty and human freedom, Responsibility and accountability | Deuteronomy 30:19; Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 1:11 |
| Sovereignty in Salvation | Affirms God's sovereign grace in electing and saving sinners. Salvation is initiated and completed by God, yet involves human response in faith. | - Election and predestination, Grace in salvation, Human response of faith | Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 8:29-30; John 3:16 |
| Sovereignty and Suffering | Explores the relationship between God's sovereignty and the existence of suffering, asserting that God has a purpose in allowing suffering and works through it for good, according to His sovereign will. | - Purpose in suffering, Sovereignty over evil and suffering | Romans 8:28; James 1:2-4; Job 1:21 |
| Sovereignty and Prayer | Addresses the importance and efficacy of prayer within the framework of God's sovereignty, emphasizing that prayer is both ordained and used by God as a means to fulfill His sovereign purposes. | - Prayer as a means in sovereignty, The efficacy and necessity of prayer | James 5:16; Matthew 7:7-11; 1 John 5:14-15 |
| Sovereignty and Eschatology | God's sovereignty over the end times, including the return of Christ, the final judgment, and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom. God's ultimate victory and the fulfillment of His purposes are assured. | - Sovereignty over end times, God's ultimate victory, Fulfillment of God's sovereign purposes | Revelation 19:6; Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines The Bible

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Nature of the Word of God | The Word of God is living, active, and powerful, encompassing both the written Word (Scripture) and the living Word (Christ). | - Living and active, Scripture and Christ | Hebrews 4:12; John 1:1-14 |
| Authority of Scripture | Scripture, as the written Word of God, possesses ultimate authority over faith and life for believers. | - Ultimate authority for believers, Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone) | 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21 |
| Inspiration of Scripture | Scripture is God-breathed, inspired by the Holy Spirit, ensuring its trustworthiness and authority. | - God-breathed, Inspired by the Holy Spirit | 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21 |
| Inerrancy and Infallibility | The original manuscripts of Scripture are without error and completely trustworthy in all they affirm. | - Without error in original manuscripts, Trustworthy in all affirmations | Psalms 19:7; John 17:17 |
| Sufficiency of Scripture | Scripture contains all that is necessary for understanding salvation and living a life pleasing to God. | - Contains all necessary for salvation and godliness, Equips for every good work | Psalms 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:15-17 |
| Clarity of Scripture | Scripture is clear in its essential teachings, understandable to all who read it seeking God's guidance. | - Clear in essential teachings, Understandable by all | Psalms 119:130; Acts 17:11 |
| Canon of Scripture | The canon of Scripture is the set of books that the Church recognizes as inspired and authoritative. | - Recognized as inspired, Authoritative set of books | Revelation 22:18-19; 2 Peter 3:15-16 |
| Christ, the Living Word | Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God, the living Word, who fully reveals God to humanity. | - Ultimate revelation of God, Fully reveals God to humanity | John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:1-3 |
| The Word of God and Salvation | God's Word is instrumental in bringing about salvation, convicting sinners, and guiding them to faith in Christ. | - Instrumental in salvation, Convicts and guides to faith | Romans 10:17; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23 |
| The Word of God in Worship | The Word of God is central in Christian worship, guiding, informing, and empowering the worship of God's people. | - Central in worship, Guides, informs, and empowers worship | Colossians 3:16; John 4:23-24 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines

Jesus Christ

| Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|---|--|---|
| Pre-existence of Christ: Jesus Christ existed with God from the beginning, before His incarnation. | - Eternal existence with God, Active in creation | John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2 |
| Incarnation of Christ: The eternal Son of God took on human flesh in Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, for the purpose of our salvation. | - Fully God and fully man, Born of a virgin, Lived a sinless life | John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8; Luke 1:34-35 |
| Threefold office of Christ: Jesus took the office of Prophet (Greatest - bringing God's Word), Priest (Chief High Priest - for our holiness) and King (King of Kings - Ruler & defeating the death). | - Singular work of Christ with three aspects of Prophet, Priest and King | Deuteronomy 18:15, Hebrews 7:24-25, John 18:36-37 |
| Atoning Work of Christ: Christ's death on the cross provided the perfect and complete sacrifice for sin, reconciling us to God. | - Substitutionary atonement, Justification by faith | Romans 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2 |
| Resurrection of Christ: Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead, confirming His divinity and the truth of His teachings, ensuring our justification. | - Bodily resurrection, Victory over sin and death, Assurance of believers' resurrection | Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 17-20 |
| Ascension and Exaltation: After His resurrection, Christ ascended to heaven and is exalted at the right hand of God, interceding for believers. | - Ascended to heaven, Exalted at God's right hand, Intercedes for us | Acts 1:9; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Timothy 2:5 |
| Present Ministry of Christ: Christ currently serves as our High Priest and Advocate, making intercession for us and enabling our access to God. | - High Priest, Advocate with the Father, Mediator | Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1; 1 Timothy 2:5 |
| Second Coming of Christ: Jesus Christ will return visibly and gloriously to judge the living and the dead and to establish His eternal kingdom. | - Personal and visible return, Judgment of humanity, Establishment of the kingdom | Matthew 24:30; Acts 1:11; Revelation 22:12 |
| Lordship of Christ: Jesus Christ is Lord over all, demanding our allegiance, obedience, and worship. | - Sovereign Lord, Authority over all creation, Worthy of worship | Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 5:12-13 |
| Christ's Role in Salvation: Salvation is found in Christ alone, through His life, death, and resurrection, offering redemption and eternal life to believers. | - Sole source of salvation, Redeemer and Savior, Justification and sanctification through faith in Him | Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Romans 5:9-10 |
| Union with Christ: Believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection, leading to a transformed life and eternal union with Him. | - Spiritual union in death and resurrection, Basis for sanctification and eternal life | Romans 6:5-6; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:4-6 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines

Holy Spirit

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|--|--|---|---|
| Personhood of the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit is not merely a force, but a personal being with intellect, emotions, and will. | - Personal attributes, Engages in personal activities | John 14:26; Romans 8:27; Ephesians 4:30 |
| Deity of the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit is fully God, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son, possessing all the divine attributes. | - God's attributes, Equality with the Father and Son | Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Hebrews 9:14 |
| Roles of the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit's roles include convicting the world of sin, regenerating believers, indwelling, and sealing them for salvation. | - Conviction of sin, Regeneration and indwelling, Sealing for salvation | John 16:8; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:13-14 |
| Gifts of the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to believers for the building up of the church and the ministry of believers. | - Variety of gifts, For edification of the church, Distributed according to His will | 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-12 |
| Fruit of the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit produces Christ-like character in the lives of believers, known as the fruit of the Spirit. | - Christ-like qualities, Evidence of the Spirit's work in a believer | Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9 |
| Empowerment by the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit empowers believers for witness, service, and holy living. | - Power for mission, Enables spiritual gifts and service, Sanctification and empowerment for living | Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 1:7; Galatians 5:16-18 |
| Guidance of the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit guides believers into truth, helping them understand and apply God's Word. | - Guides into all truth, Illuminates Scripture, Directs life decisions | John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Romans 8:14 |
| Baptism in the Holy Spirit | The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an empowering experience that is given to the believer at the time of Salvation. Unlike for the early disciples, it is no more a distinct experience | - Empowerment for service and witness given to all believers. | Matthew 3:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13 |
| Intercession of the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit intercedes for believers according to the will of God, especially in times of weakness or when words fail. | - Prays on believers' behalf, Aligns prayers with God's will | Romans 8:26-27 |
| The Holy Spirit in Salvation | The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in the salvation of believers, from bringing conviction to sealing and sanctification. | - Initiates conviction of sin, Regenerates the believer, Seals and sanctifies | John 3:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Ephesians 1:13-14 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines

Man

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Creation of Man | Humanity was created by God in His image and likeness, possessing dignity, moral responsibility, and the capacity for relationship. | - Imago Dei (Image of God), Created with dignity and purpose, Capacity for relationship with God and others | Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:4-6 |
| Nature of Man | Man is a unified being of both material (body) and immaterial (soul/spirit) aspects, created for God's glory and fellowship. | - Unity of body and soul/spirit, Created for fellowship with God | Genesis 2:7; Matthew 10:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:23 |
| Fall of Man | Through Adam's disobedience, sin entered the world, resulting in physical and spiritual death for all humanity. | - Original sin and its consequences, Universal sinfulness and separation from God | Genesis 3:6-19; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3 |
| Sinfulness of Man | All human beings are sinners by nature and choice, inherently opposed to God's law and under His righteous judgment. | - Total depravity, Inability to attain righteousness on one's own | Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:3 |
| Dignity of Man | Despite the fall, humans retain their dignity as bearers of God's image, deserving respect and the opportunity for redemption. | - Imago Dei remains after the fall, Basis for human dignity and rights | Genesis 9:6; James 3:9 |
| Redemption of Man | Redemption and restoration for humanity are available exclusively through faith in Jesus Christ, who reconciles us to God. | - Salvation by grace through faith, Reconciliation with God | John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 1:21-22 |
| Destiny of Man | Humanity's ultimate destiny is determined by their relationship with Christ, leading to eternal communion with God or separation. | - Eternal life or death based on faith in Christ, New creation in Christ for believers | Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 21:3-4 |
| Image of God Restored | In Christ, the image of God is being restored in believers, making them capable of righteousness and true holiness. | - Sanctification and renewal in Christ's image, Progressive restoration of the imago Dei | 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:23-24; Colossians 3:10 |
| Stewardship of Creation | Humans are called to steward and care for creation responsibly, reflecting God's character in their dominion over the earth. | - Responsible dominion and stewardship, Care for creation as God's representatives | Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8:6-8; Colossians 1:16 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines

Salvation

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Origin of Sin | Sin originated with Lucifer's rebellion in heaven, followed by the fall of Adam and Eve, introducing sin into the human race. | - Initiated by Lucifer's rebellion, Entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience | Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17; Genesis 3:1-7 |
| Nature of Sin | Sin is any thought, word, or deed that contradicts God's holy character and law. | - Contravention of God's law, Includes thoughts, words, deeds | 1 John 3:4; James 4:17; Romans 14:23 |
| Total Depravity | Humanity is thoroughly affected by sin, impacting every aspect of one's being and rendering them incapable of choosing God without His intervention. | - Affects all aspects of human nature, Human incapacity to choose God independently | Romans 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1-3 |
| Imputed Sin | Adam's sin is credited to all his descendants, making all humanity guilty before God and deserving of judgment. | - Federal headship of Adam, Universal guilt and judgment | Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22 |
| Personal Sin | Individual acts of sin stemming from one's fallen nature and choices, further alienating them from God. | - Personal acts against God's law, Stem from fallen nature and individual choices | Psalms 51:5; 1 John 1:8-10; Ephesians 4:17-19 |
| Consequences of Sin | Sin results in spiritual death, separation from God, and, without redemption, leads to physical and eternal death. | - Spiritual and eternal death, Separation from God | Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-5; Revelation 20:14-15 |
| Sin Against the Holy Spirit | The unforgivable sin, often understood as a persistent rejection of the Holy Spirit's conviction to embrace salvation through Christ. | - Unforgivable due to continual rejection, Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit | Matthew 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:10 |
| Universality of Sin | Sin affects all people without exception, underscoring the universal need for salvation through Jesus Christ. | - All have sinned, Universal redemption needed | Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10; Psalm 14:1-3 |
| Victory over Sin | Through Christ, believers are no longer enslaved to sin's power and are called to live in the freedom and holiness that Christ provides. | - Christ's victory grants freedom from sin, Called to live a holy life | Romans 6:6-14; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Galatians 5:1 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines The Church

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|--|---|---|--|
| Nature of the Church | The church is the body of Christ, composed of all believers, characterized by unity and diversity. | - Body of Christ, Unity in diversity, Universal and local expressions | Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Matthew 16:18 |
| Marks of the Church | The church is one, holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic, as affirmed in the Nicene Creed. | - Unity, Holiness, Universality, Apostolicity | Ephesians 4:4-6; Acts 2:42; John 17:21 |
| Mission of the Church | The mission includes worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry (service), and evangelism. | - Worship and glorify God, Make disciples, Serve and witness | Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:9 |
| Ordinances/Sacraments of the Church | Baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as ordinances instituted by Christ for the church. | - Baptism as initiation into the body of Christ, The Lord's Supper as a remembrance of Christ's sacrifice | Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 |
| Worship in the Church | Worship is central to the life of the church, involving proclamation of the Word, prayer, singing, and sacraments. | - Proclamation of the Word, Corporate and individual prayer, Singing of hymns and spiritual songs | Colossians 3:16; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25 |
| Government of the Church | Church government is to be carried out by a team of elders. | Presbyterian: rule by plurality of elders is Biblical | 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 14:23 |
| Ministry and Gifts in the Church | The Holy Spirit empowers members of the church with spiritual gifts for ministry and edification of the body. | - Diversity of gifts for ministry, Edification of the church, Equipping for service | Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-16 |
| Discipline in the Church | Church discipline is necessary for maintaining purity, order, and reconciliation within the church community. | - Correction and restoration, Accountability in the community | Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1 |
| Unity and Diversity in the Church | The church reflects the unity and diversity of the Godhead, embracing believers from various backgrounds and cultures. | - Reflects trinitarian unity, Embraces ethnic and cultural diversity, Manifests in various denominations | John 17:20-23; Galatians 3:28; Revelation 7:9-10 |
| Eschatological Aspect of the Church | The church anticipates the consummation of God's kingdom and the fulfillment of Christ's redemptive work at the end of the age. | - Anticipation of Christ's return, Consummation of the Kingdom of God | Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 21:2-3 |

Knowing God > The Bible > The Doctrines

The End Times

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Second Coming of Christ | Jesus Christ will return visibly and gloriously to earth to judge the living and the dead and to establish His eternal kingdom. | - Personal and visible return, Judgment and establishment of His kingdom | Matthew 24:30; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16 |
| Resurrection of the Dead | All the dead will be raised, believers to eternal life and the wicked to judgment. | - Resurrection to life or condemnation, Bodily resurrection | John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Revelation 20:5-6 |
| Final Judgment | All people will be judged by Christ; believers rewarded for faithfulness, and unbelievers sentenced to eternal separation from God. | - Universal judgment, Rewards and punishments based on deeds and faith | Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15 |
| Heaven and Hell | Heaven is the eternal dwelling place of God and believers, whereas Hell is the place of eternal punishment for Satan and unbelievers. | - Eternal states of existence, Reward of righteousness and punishment of evil | Revelation 21:1-4; Matthew 25:41; 2 Thessalonians 1:9 |
| Millennial Reign of Christ | Christ will reign on earth for a thousand years, a period marked by peace and righteousness, though interpretations vary. | - Literal or symbolic thousand years, Pre-millennial, post-millennial, amillennial views | Revelation 20:1-6; Isaiah 11:6-9 |
| The Rapture of the Church | Believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, preceding the tribulation and Second Coming, though timing is debated. | - Imminent event, Pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, post-tribulation views | 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:40-41 |
| The Tribulation | A period of unprecedented suffering and divine judgment on earth, culminating in Christ's return. | - Seven years of tribulation, Antichrist's reign and persecution | Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14 |
| The Antichrist | A figure who will emerge to deceive and exert global dominion, opposing Christ before the Second Coming. | - Global deception and persecution, Defeated by Christ | 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13:1-8 |
| The New Heaven and New Earth | God will create a new heaven and earth where believers will dwell with Him eternally, free from sin and suffering. | - Eternal state of righteousness, Restoration of all things | Revelation 21:1-5; 2 Peter 3:13 |
| The Eternal State | The final, unchangeable state of all humanity and the universe, involving eternal communion with God or eternal separation from Him. | - Unchanging destiny, Communion with God or separation | Revelation 21:1-8; Revelation 22:1-5 |

Knowing God > The Bible

Theology

The word “theology” comes from two Greek words that combined mean “the study of God.”

Christian theology is an attempt to understand God as He is revealed in the Bible. No theology will ever fully explain God and His ways because God is infinitely and eternally higher than we are.

However, God does want us to know Him insofar as we are able, and theology is the art and science of knowing what we can know and understand about God in an organized and understandable manner.

Some people try to avoid theology because they believe it is divisive. Properly understood, though, theology is truly uniting. Proper, biblical theology is a good thing; it is the teaching of God’s Word

To study theology is to get to know God in order that we may glorify Him through our love and obedience.

Poor theology and a superficial, inaccurate understanding of God will only make our lives worse instead of strengthening us to live by His design.

Knowing about God is crucially important. Without theology, we waste our lives and lose our the grandest opportunity to joyfully walk with God in God’s intended Way.

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology

Schools of Theology

| School of Theology | Definition | Approach Overview | Benefits |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Systematic Theology | Organizes Christian doctrines into a coherent system, addressing theological topics systematically. | Uses the Bible and historical creeds to formulate an organized doctrine that addresses major topics. | Facilitates a comprehensive and organized understanding of Christian beliefs. |
| Biblical Theology | Studies the overarching story and specific themes within the Bible, emphasizing continuity across Testaments. | Focuses on the narrative and thematic development within the Bible itself. | Enhances understanding of Scripture's unity and diversity, enriching biblical interpretation. |
| Historical Theology | Explores the development of Christian theology throughout history to understand how beliefs and doctrines have evolved. | Examines historical contexts, creeds, and key theological figures to trace doctrinal development. | Provides valuable context for contemporary beliefs, showing their historical evolution. |
| Dispensational Theology | Divides history into periods or dispensations where God interacts with humanity differently, often with a focus on end times. | Interprets the Bible, especially prophecy, through the lens of distinct periods of divine administration. | Offers a distinct perspective on biblical history, prophecy, and the role of Israel. |
| Covenant Theology | Views the Bible and God's dealings with humanity through the lens of covenants, emphasizing continuity in God's redemptive plan. | Analyzes biblical covenants as a framework for understanding the progression of redemption. | Highlights the relational and progressive nature of God's revelation and salvation plan. |
| Reformed Theology (Calvinism) | Emphasizes God's sovereignty, salvation by grace through faith alone, and the authority of Scripture. | Grounded in the principles of the Protestant Reformation, focusing on God's sovereignty in salvation. | Provides a strong doctrinal foundation based on God's sovereignty and the centrality of grace. |
| Arminianism | Emphasizes human free will in accepting or rejecting God's grace. Salvation is offered to all, but only effective for those who believe. | Advocates conditional election based on foreseen faith and stresses the resistibility of grace. | Promotes a balanced view of God's sovereignty and human responsibility, affirming the universal offer of grace. |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology

Systematic Theology

Systematic theology organizes the doctrines of the Bible into specific categories, wholistically each addressing fundamental aspects of Christian faith and practice.

| Aspect | Overview | Key Bible Verses |
|--|---|---|
| Paterology / Theology Proper (God the Father) | Examines the existence, attributes, and nature of God the Father, His sovereignty, and His relationship with creation. | Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17 |
| Christology (Christ) | Focuses on the person and work of Jesus Christ, including His incarnation, teachings, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. | John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:15-20 |
| Pneumatology (Holy Spirit) | Studies the person and work of the Holy Spirit, His role in the Godhead, and His interaction with the world and believers. | John 14:26; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 |
| Bibliology (Scripture) | Concerns the nature, origin, and authority of the Bible, its inspiration, inerrancy, and interpretation. | 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:105 |
| Soteriology (Salvation) | Deals with the nature of salvation, how it is achieved through Christ, and its effects on humanity. | Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:23-24; Titus 3:5-7 |
| Anthropology (Humanity) | Explores the creation of humans in God's image, the nature of humanity, and the human condition after the fall into sin. | Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3 |
| Hamartiology (Sin) | Examines the origin, nature, and consequences of sin, as well as its impact on humanity and creation. | Romans 5:12; 1 John 1:8-10; James 4:17 |
| Ecclesiology (Church) | Investigates the origin, nature, structure, and function of the Church, including its mission and ordinances. | Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:11-16 |
| Eschatology (Last Things) | Concerns the study of end times, including the second coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, judgment, and the new creation. | 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Peter 3:10-13 |
| Angelology (Angels) | Studies angels, their nature, roles, and activities, as well as their service to God and humanity. | Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 91:11; Luke 2:13-14 |
| Demonology (Demons) | Explores the origin, nature, and activity of demons, including their opposition to God's purposes and influence in the world. | Ephesians 6:11-12; James 2:19; Mark 5:9 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Paterology / Theology Proper (God the Father)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Nature of God the Father | God the Father is the first Person of the Trinity, eternal, unchangeable, and infinitely perfect in holiness, love, and justice. | - Eternal and unchangeable, Perfect in holiness, love, and justice | Malachi 3:6; 1 John 4:8; Revelation 4:8 |
| Creation and Providence | God the Father is the Creator of all things, and He sustains and governs all creation through His providence. | - Creator of all, Sustains and governs creation | Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:16-17 |
| Fatherhood of God | The Fatherhood of God denotes His relationship with Jesus Christ, His Son, and extends to all believers adopted into His family. | - Father of Jesus Christ, Spiritual fatherhood over believers | Matthew 3:17; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:15 |
| Revelation of God the Father | God the Father reveals Himself in nature, Scripture, and supremely through His Son, Jesus Christ. | - Revealed in nature and Scripture, Fully revealed in Jesus Christ | Psalms 19:1-4; Hebrews 1:1-2; John 14:9 |
| Attributes of God the Father | God the Father possesses all divine attributes, including omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, and immutability. | - Omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, Immutable | Psalms 139:1-16; Isaiah 40:28; James 1:17 |
| God's Sovereign Will | God the Father's will is sovereign, guiding history to His predetermined end and working all things according to His purpose. | - Sovereign over history, Works all things for His glory | Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28; Revelation 21:6 |
| God's Holiness and Justice | God the Father is infinitely holy and just, demanding righteousness and executing judgment on sin. | - Infinitely holy and just, Demands righteousness | Leviticus 19:2; Psalm 89:14; Acts 17:31 |
| God's Love and Mercy | God the Father's love is unconditional and sacrificial, demonstrated through the gift of His Son for humanity's salvation. | - Unconditional love, Sacrificial mercy | John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 John 4:9-10 |
| The Trinity | God the Father exists eternally in perfect relationship and unity with the Son and the Holy Spirit. | - Perfect unity within the Trinity, Distinct personhood within the Godhead | Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14 |
| Worship of God the Father | Worship is due to God the Father, offered in spirit and truth, through the mediation of the Son and by the empowerment of the Spirit. | - Worship in spirit and truth, Through Christ's mediation, Enabled by the Holy Spirit | John 4:23-24; Ephesians 2:18; Philippians 3:3 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Christology (Christ)

| Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|---|--|---|
| Pre-existence of Christ: Jesus Christ existed with God from before the foundation of the world, participating in creation and in the eternal divine counsel. | - Eternal with the Father, Active in creation, Divine nature | John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2 |
| Incarnation: Jesus Christ, fully God, took on human flesh, born of a virgin, fully embodying both divine and human natures in one person. | - Fully God and fully man, Virgin birth, Union of two natures | Luke 1:34-35; John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-7 |
| Threefold office of Christ: Jesus took the office of Prophet (Greatest - bringing God's Word), Priest (Chief High Priest - for our holiness) and King (King of Kings - Ruler & defeating the death). | - Singular work of Christ with three aspects of Prophet, Priest and King | Deuteronomy 18:15, Hebrews 7:24-25, John 18:36-37 |
| Life and Ministry of Christ: Jesus' life was characterized by teaching, miracles, and perfect obedience, revealing God and His kingdom. | - Teaching and miracles, Sinless life, Revealed the Father | Matthew 4:23; Hebrews 4:15; John 14:9 |
| Death of Christ: Christ's death on the cross was a substitutionary atonement for sin, satisfying God's justice and demonstrating His love. | - Substitutionary atonement, Satisfaction of divine justice, Expression of divine love | Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 4:10 |
| Resurrection of Christ: Jesus Christ was physically raised from the dead, validating His divinity, atonement, and the hope of believers' resurrection. | - Bodily resurrection, Validation of His work, Hope for believers | Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 20-22 |
| Ascension and Exaltation: Christ ascended into heaven and is exalted at the right hand of the Father, interceding for believers. | - Ascended to heaven, Exalted and interceding, Authority over all | Acts 1:9; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20-22 |
| Present Work of Christ: Jesus currently serves as High Priest and Advocate for believers, applying the benefits of His atoning work. | - High Priest and Advocate, Application of atonement, Mediatorial reign | Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1; Timothy 2:5 |
| Second Coming of Christ: Jesus Christ will return visibly and gloriously to establish His kingdom fully, judge humanity, and restore all things. | - Visible and glorious return, Final judgment and restoration, Fulfillment of God's promises | Matthew 24:30; Acts 1:11; Revelation 22:12 |
| Christ's Kingdom: Christ's reign is both a present spiritual reality and a future physical fulfillment in the new heavens and new earth. | - Already/not yet kingdom, Spiritual and future physical reign, Eternal dominion | Luke 17:21; Revelation 11:15; 2 Peter 3:13 |
| Christology and Salvation: Understanding the person and work of Christ is central to the gospel message and the basis of Christian faith and salvation. | - Central to the gospel, Basis of salvation, Foundation of faith | John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 15:14 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Pneumatology (Holy Spirit)

| Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|--|--|---|
| Personhood of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, not merely a force. He possesses intellect, emotions, and will, demonstrating personal attributes and actions. | - Personal attributes (will, intellect, emotions), Engages in personal activities (teaching, guiding, interceding) | John 14:26; Romans 8:27; Ephesians 4:30 |
| Deity of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is fully God, coequal with the Father and the Son, sharing in the divine essence and attributes. | - Divine attributes and works, Coequal with Father and Son | Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Matthew 28:19 |
| Roles of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit's roles include convicting the world of sin, regenerating and sanctifying believers, and empowering them for service and witness. | - Conviction of sin, Regeneration and sanctification of believers, Empowerment for service and witness | John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Titus 3:5 |
| Indwelling of the Holy Spirit: From the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit permanently indwells believers, marking them as God's own and enabling them to live a godly life. | - Permanent indwelling at salvation, Marks believers as God's own, Enables godly living | Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13-14 |
| Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The baptism in the Holy Spirit places believers into the body of Christ. It is no longer a separate empowerment experience after Pentecost period. | - Incorporation into the Body of Christ | 1 Corinthians 12:13; Acts 1:5; Acts 2:1-4 |
| Filling with the Holy Spirit: Believers are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit which is a continual process of surrender to Word and empowerment for Christian living and service. | - Continuous process, Empowerment for living and service, Involves surrender and obedience | Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16; Acts 4:31 |
| Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts upon believers for the edification of the church and the advancement of its mission. | - Varied gifts for ministry, For edification of the church and mission advancement | 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-12 |
| Fruit of the Holy Spirit: The fruit of the Spirit is the visible manifestation of the Holy Spirit's work in a believer's life, reflecting Christ-like qualities. | - Evidence of the Spirit's work, Reflects Christ-like character | Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9 |
| The Holy Spirit and Scripture: The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of Scripture and illuminates its truths to believers, enabling understanding and application. | - Inspiration of Scripture, Illumination for understanding and application | 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 |
| The Holy Spirit in Salvation: The Holy Spirit is active in every stage of salvation, from regeneration to glorification, securing and applying the benefits of Christ's work. | - Regenerates and seals believers, Applies salvation benefits, Assures of God's presence | John 3:5-8; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Bibliology (Scripture)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Inspiration of Scripture | Scripture is God-breathed, meaning it is inspired by God Himself through the Holy Spirit, making it authoritative and infallible. | - Verbal plenary inspiration, Authors guided by the Holy Spirit | 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21 |
| Authority of Scripture | The Bible possesses ultimate authority in all matters of faith and conduct because it is the Word of God to humanity. | - Ultimate standard for truth, Authority in faith and life | Psalms 119:105; Matthew 5:18; John 17:17 |
| Inerrancy and Infallibility | Scripture, in its original manuscripts, is without error in all it teaches and completely trustworthy in all it asserts. | - Free from all falsehood or mistake, Reliable and true in everything it affirms | Proverbs 30:5; John 10:35; Titus 1:2 |
| Clarity of Scripture | The Bible is clear and understandable to all who read it seeking God's guidance, with the essential truths of salvation accessible to all. | - Perspicuity of Scripture, Accessible and understandable truths of salvation | Psalms 119:130; Acts 17:11; Ephesians 1:17-18 |
| Sufficiency of Scripture | Scripture contains everything necessary for knowledge of salvation and godly living, requiring nothing beyond itself for faith and life. | - Complete guide for salvation, Sufficient for all aspects of faith | Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:15-17 |
| Canon of Scripture | The canon is the collection of books that Christians recognize as divinely inspired and authoritative Scripture. | - Criteria for canonicity, Recognition by the early Church, Old Testament and New Testament canons | Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 22:18-19 |
| Preservation of Scripture | God has sovereignly preserved His Word through the centuries, ensuring that it remains trustworthy and authoritative for all generations. | - Historical transmission, Accuracy of manuscripts, Divine preservation through history | Matthew 5:18; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Isaiah 40:8 |
| Interpretation of Scripture | Proper interpretation of Scripture requires the guidance of the Holy Spirit and adherence to sound hermeneutical principles. | - Role of the Holy Spirit in interpretation, Historical-grammatical method, Contextual analysis | 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11 |
| Application of Scripture | The Bible is not only to be understood and believed but also to be applied personally and communally in the life of the believer and the Church. | - Personal and communal application, Transformation of life and practice | James 1:22-25; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 4:1-3 |
| The Unity of Scripture | Despite being written over centuries by multiple authors, Scripture possesses a divine unity and coherence, centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ. | - Coherent and unified message, Christocentric focus, Divine orchestration of diverse texts | Luke 24:27; John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:15 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Soteriology (Salvation)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|---|--|--|---|
| Nature of Salvation | Salvation is a comprehensive term encompassing the past, present, and future aspects of being saved, through Christ's atoning work. | - Justification, sanctification, glorification, By grace through faith | Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:30 |
| Atonement | Christ's death on the cross made full atonement for the sins of humanity, satisfying God's justice and demonstrating His love. | - Substitutionary atonement, Penal satisfaction, Redemption and reconciliation | Romans 3:25-26; 1 John 2:2; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 |
| Justification | Justification is God's declaration that sinners are righteous through faith in Christ, based on His righteousness imputed to them. | - Legal declaration of righteousness, Imputed righteousness of Christ | Romans 3:24; Romans 4:5; Galatians 2:16 |
| Regeneration | Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit, giving new spiritual life to the believer, enabling them to respond to God in faith. | - Born again, Work of the Holy Spirit, New creation in Christ | John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17 |
| Sanctification | Sanctification is the process by which believers are made holy, becoming more like Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit. | - Progressive holiness, Set apart for God's use, Work of the Holy Spirit | 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Romans 6:22; 2 Corinthians 3:18 |
| Adoption | Believers are adopted into God's family, becoming His children with the rights and privileges of sonship. | - Spiritual adoption, Children of God, Heirs with Christ | Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:5 |
| Perseverance of the Saints | Those truly regenerated and justified will persevere in faith until the end, kept by the power of God through faith for salvation. | - Eternal security, Kept by God's power, Evidence of genuine faith | John 10:28-29; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5 |
| Election and Predestination | God's sovereign choice of individuals to salvation, not based on foreseen merit but solely on His gracious purpose and will. | - Unconditional election, Based on God's grace, For God's glory | Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 8:29-30; 1 Peter 1:2 |
| The Role of Faith | Salvation is received through faith, a trustful response to God's grace, acknowledging Christ's lordship and relying on His atonement. | - Trust in Christ, Response to grace, Not of works, lest any man should boast | Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 2:20 |
| The Universal Offer of Salvation | Salvation is offered to all people, but its benefits are only applied to those who respond in faith to the gospel message. | - Offered to all, Effective for those who believe, Requires response of faith | Titus 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 22:17 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Anthropology (Humanity)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Creation of Humanity | Humanity was created by God in His own image and likeness, distinct from all other forms of creation, with inherent dignity and worth. | - Imago Dei (Image of God), Male and female, Stewardship over creation | Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7; Psalm 8:5-8 |
| Nature of Humanity | Humans are composite beings, possessing both physical bodies and immaterial souls, endowed with rationality, emotion, and will. | - Body and soul/spirit, Rational, emotional, and volitional capacities | Genesis 2:7; Matthew 10:28; Hebrews 4:12 |
| Fall of Humanity | The fall into sin, initiated by Adam and Eve's disobedience, has corrupted all aspects of human nature and reality, necessitating redemption. | - Original sin and its universality, Total depravity, Broken relationship with God | Genesis 3:6-19; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3 |
| Sinfulness of Humanity | All humans are sinners by nature and choice, incapable of restoring their own relationship with God apart from divine intervention. | - Inherited sin nature, Personal acts of sin, Need for divine salvation | Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:3 |
| Dignity and Worth of Humanity | Despite the fall, humans retain their dignity and worth as bearers of God's image, deserving of respect and capable of redemption. | - Imago Dei retained, Inherent dignity and worth, Redemption possible | Genesis 9:6; James 3:9; 1 John 2:2 |
| Sexuality and Gender | God created humans as male and female, with gender as part of the goodness of God's creation, intended for complementarity and procreation. | - Gender as God-given, Complementarity of male and female, Purpose in procreation and unity | Genesis 1:27-28; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31-32 |
| The Image of God Restored | In Christ, the image of God is being restored in believers, enabling them to reflect God's character and fulfill their original purpose. | - Restoration through Christ, Sanctification in the image of Christ, Renewed purpose and stewardship | Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:10 |
| Human Destiny | Humanity's ultimate destiny is determined by their relationship with Christ, leading either to eternal communion with God or eternal separation. | - Eternal destiny in heaven or hell, Based on relationship with Christ | Matthew 25:46; John 3:16; Revelation 20:15; 21:3-4 |
| Stewardship and Dominion | Humans are called to exercise stewardship over creation, reflecting God's care and dominion, which is restored and properly directed in Christ. | - Stewardship over creation, Dominion under God, Responsibility and care | Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8:6-8; Colossians 1:16 |
| Community and Relationship | Humans are created for community and relationship, both with God and one another, which reflects the Trinitarian nature of God. | - Relationship with God and others, Reflects the relational nature of the Trinity, Essential for fulfillment | Genesis 2:18; John 17:20-23; Acts 2:42-47 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Hamartiology (Sin)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Origin of Sin | Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience to God's command, bringing corruption and death into the created order. | - Introduced by Adam's fall, Original sin affecting all humanity | Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 |
| Nature of Sin | Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God, encompassing thoughts, words, deeds, and omissions. | - Transgression and omission, Sinful thoughts, words, and deeds | 1 John 3:4; James 4:17; Romans 14:23 |
| Imputed Sin | Adam's sin is imputed to all humanity, accounting everyone as guilty before God and subject to death and condemnation. | - Federal headship of Adam, Universal guilt and death | Romans 5:18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22 |
| Inherited Sin | Humanity inherits a sinful nature from Adam, resulting in a natural inclination towards sin and moral inability to please God. | - Sinful nature passed down, Inclination to sin, Moral inability | Psalms 51:5; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 5:19 |
| Personal Sin | Individuals commit personal sins, which are voluntary violations of God's revealed will, further separating them from God. | - Voluntary acts against God's will, Further separation from God | James 1:14-15; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:17-19 |
| The Effects of Sin | Sin affects every part of human nature and all of creation, resulting in spiritual death, broken relationships, and suffering. | - Total depravity, Spiritual death, Creation subjected to futility | Romans 6:23; Romans 8:20-23; Ephesians 2:1-3 |
| Mortality and Sin | Physical death is a consequence of sin, highlighting the seriousness of sin and the brokenness it brings to the created order. | - Death as sin's consequence, Physical and spiritual death | Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23; James 1:15 |
| Sin and God's Holiness | Sin is fundamentally opposition to God's holiness, necessitating God's just wrath and the need for atonement. | - Opposition to God's nature, Necessitates divine wrath and atonement | Habakkuk 1:13; Romans 1:18; 1 John 1:5-7 |
| Victory over Sin | Through Christ's atoning sacrifice, believers are justified, sanctified, and will ultimately be glorified, free from sin's presence. | - Justification through faith, Sanctification in Christ, Ultimate glorification away from sin's presence | Romans 5:6-9; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Romans 8:29-30 |
| Repentance and Forgiveness | Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to God, a necessary step for forgiveness and restoration in Christ. | - Necessary for forgiveness, Involves confession and turning to God | Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9; 2 Chronicles 7:14 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Ecclesiology (Church)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|--|---|--|---|
| Nature of the Church | The Church is the body of Christ, consisting of all true believers worldwide, distinguished by its unity and diversity. | - Spiritual body of Christ, Unity and diversity among believers, Both universal and local expressions | 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:3-6; Matthew 16:18 |
| Marks of the Church | Historically, the Church is identified by four marks: one, holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic. | - Unity in faith and practice, Holiness in conduct, Catholicity in scope, Apostolic in doctrine | Ephesians 4:4-6; Acts 2:42; John 17:21 |
| Mission of the Church | The Church's mission includes worship, evangelism, discipleship, ministry to the needy, and fellowship. | - Glorification of God, Proclamation of the gospel, Equipping of the saints, Service and fellowship | Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; James 1:27; Acts 2:42 |
| Ordinances of the Church | Baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as the two primary ordinances instituted by Christ for the Church. | - Baptism as a sign of faith and entry into God's family, Lord's Supper as a remembrance of Christ's sacrifice | Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 |
| Worship in the Church | Worship is central to the Church's life, involving proclamation of the Word, sacraments, prayer, and music. | - Corporate and individual worship, Sacraments as means of grace | John 4:23-24; Ephesians 5:19; Acts 2:42 |
| Government of the Church | The Church is organized under several forms of governance, including episcopal, presbyterian, and congregational models. | - Various governance structures, Leadership roles and responsibilities | 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 15:6; Hebrews 13:17 |
| Ministry and Gifts in the Church | Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to all believers for the edification of the Church and the advancement of its mission. | - Diversity of gifts for ministry, Building up the body of Christ, Service and mission | Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-12 |
| Unity and Diversity in the Church | The Church reflects the unity and diversity of its members, mirroring the unity and diversity within the Godhead. | - Unity in Christ despite diversity, Reflects trinitarian community | 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:11-13 |
| Discipline in the Church | Discipline is practiced within the Church to restore fallen members, maintain purity, and uphold its testimony. | - Restoration of sinners, Maintenance of holiness and order | Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1 |
| The Church and the Kingdom of God | The Church is the manifestation of God's kingdom on earth, called to live out the values of the kingdom and proclaim its arrival. | - Foretaste of the kingdom, Proclamation and demonstration of kingdom values | Matthew 16:18-19; Romans 14:17; Revelation 1:6 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Eschatology (Last Things)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Second Coming of Christ | Christ will return visibly and gloriously to earth to establish His kingdom, judge humanity, and restore all things. | - Visible and glorious return, Final judgment and establishment of the kingdom | Matthew 24:30; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16 |
| Resurrection of the Dead | All the dead will be raised, some to eternal life with God and others to eternal separation from God. | - Universal resurrection, Distinction between resurrection to life and to judgment | John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Revelation 20:4-6 |
| Final Judgment | All people, living and dead, will be judged by Christ based on their deeds and their relationship with Him. | - Universal judgment, Basis of deeds and faith in Christ | Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15 |
| Heaven | Heaven is the eternal dwelling place of God and the redeemed, characterized by the absence of sin and suffering. | - Eternal communion with God, Absence of sin and suffering | Revelation 21:1-4; John 14:2-3; 2 Peter 3:13 |
| Hell | Hell is the place of eternal punishment and separation from God for those who reject Christ. | - Eternal punishment, Separation from God | Matthew 25:41; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:14-15 |
| Millennial Kingdom | The millennial kingdom refers to a thousand-year reign of Christ on earth, interpreted variously as literal or symbolic. | - Christ's reign on earth, Pre-, Post-, or Amillennial interpretations | Revelation 20:1-6; Isaiah 11:6-9; Revelation 5:10 |
| The Rapture | The rapture involves believers being caught up to meet Christ in the air, an event associated with His second coming. | - Imminent event, Various views on timing relative to tribulation | 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:40-41; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 |
| The Tribulation | A period of severe suffering and divine judgment preceding Christ's return, featuring the rise of the Antichrist. | - Unprecedented suffering, Antichrist's rise, Preparation for Christ's return | Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14 |
| New Heaven and New Earth | God will create a new heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells, free from the effects of sin and death. | - Eternal state of righteousness, Renewal of creation | Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13; Isaiah 65:17 |
| Eternal State | The final, unchangeable condition of all creation, with the redeemed enjoying eternal life with God and the damned facing eternal judgment. | - Unchanging destiny for all creation, Eternal communion or separation | Revelation 21:3-4; Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:46 |

Angelology (Angels)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Nature of Angels | Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, serving as messengers and servants of God. | - Spiritual and created beings, Possess intelligence and moral judgment, Serve and worship God | Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 148:2-5; Matthew 24:36 |
| Purpose and Roles of Angels | Angels act as God's messengers, protectors, and agents of His will, ministering to believers and participating in God's purposes. | - Messengers of God, Protectors and providers for believers, Execute God's judgments | Luke 1:26-38; Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 91:11-12; Acts 12:6-11 |
| Angel Hierarchy | Scripture implies a hierarchy among angels, with archangels and cherubim holding specific roles and ranks. | - Various ranks and orders, Archangels oversee critical missions, Cherubim associated with God's holiness | Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7; Ezekiel 10 |
| Worship by Angels | Angels worship God continually, exemplifying praise and adoration of the Lord. | - Worshipers of God, Model praise and adoration, Participate in heavenly worship | Revelation 5:11-12; Hebrews 1:6; Isaiah 6:1-3 |
| Angels and Humanity | Angels minister to and care for human beings, especially believers, but are not to be worshipped by them. | - Ministers to believers, Not to be worshipped by humans, Help in times of need | Hebrews 1:14; Revelation 22:8-9; Acts 12:7-11 |
| Angels in Salvation History | Angels have played significant roles throughout salvation history, from the Law's delivery to announcements of Christ's birth. | - Involved in key historical events, Announced Christ's birth and resurrection | Acts 7:53; Luke 2:9-14; Matthew 28:5-7 |
| Angels in the End Times | Angels will execute key roles in end-time events, including the return of Christ, the final judgment, and the gathering of the elect. | - Participants in end-time events, Execute judgments, Gather God's people | Matthew 24:31; Revelation 7:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 |
| Interaction with Angels | While angels interact with humans as part of God's providence, direct invocation or worship of angels is prohibited. | - God directs angelic interaction, Prohibition against invoking or worshipping angels | Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10; Hebrews 13:2 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Theology > Systematic Theology

Demonology (Demons)

| Aspect | Key Statements | Key Points | Verses |
|---|--|--|--|
| Origin of Demons | Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God under the leadership of Lucifer (Satan), choosing to oppose God's rule. | - Demons were originally angels, Their fall was due to rebellion | Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17; Luke 10:18 |
| Nature of Demons | Demons are spiritual beings with personality traits (intellect, emotions, will), wholly evil, and opposed to God and His purposes. | - Spiritual entities with personal traits, Entirely evil and deceptive | James 2:19; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8 |
| Activity of Demons | Demons seek to deceive, tempt, afflict, and possess individuals, opposing God's work and seeking to destroy His creation. | - Deception and temptation, Affliction and possession, Opposition to God's purposes | 2 Corinthians 11:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8; Acts 10:38; Luke 8:12 |
| Demons and the Kingdom of Darkness | Demons are part of Satan's kingdom, working under his authority to extend his rebellion and hinder God's kingdom. | - Part of Satan's realm, Work under Satan's authority, Aim to hinder God's kingdom | Matthew 12:26; Ephesians 6:11-12 |
| Authority over Demons | Believers in Jesus Christ have authority over demons, given by Christ, to resist and cast them out. | - Authority in Christ's name, Power to resist and expel demons, Based on Christ's victory over sin and death | Luke 10:17-20; Mark 16:17; James 4:7 |
| Demons in the End Times | Demonic activity will increase as part of the end times deception and opposition to God, culminating in their ultimate defeat. | - Increase in deception and opposition, Ultimate defeat alongside Satan | 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; Revelation 20:10 |
| Demon Possession and Oppression | Demon possession involves a demon taking control over an individual, while oppression involves external harassment by demons. | - Possession entails internal control, Oppression involves external harassment, Believers' authority to address both | Mark 5:1-20; Acts 16:16-18; Ephesians 6:12 |
| Deliverance from Demons | Deliverance from demonic influence is possible through the name and authority of Jesus Christ, involving repentance and faith. | - Through Christ's authority, Involves repentance and faith, Part of the believer's spiritual warfare | Acts 16:18; Mark 9:29; Ephesians 6:10-18 |

Knowing God > The Bible > Biblical Theology

| Book | Genre | Key Points of Contribution to Biblical Theology |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| Genesis | Historical Narrative | Sovereignty of God, Creation, Fall, Origins of sin and redemption, the Flood, the Tower of Babel, Patriarchal stories (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph), origins of nations, covenant beginnings. |
| Exodus | Historical Narrative | Slavery in Egypt, Moses' leadership, the Exodus, the Covenant at Sinai, the Tabernacle, God's laws and instructions for worship. |
| Leviticus | Law | Laws on sacrifices, priesthood, purity, holiness codes, the Day of Atonement, festivals, defining the relationship between God and His people. |
| Numbers | Historical Narrative | Wilderness wanderings, census data, challenges to Moses' leadership, Balaam's prophecy, preparation to enter the Promised Land. |
| Deuteronomy | Law/Sermons | Covenant renewal, repetition and explanation of the Law, the Shema, final speeches of Moses, preparation for entering the Promised Land. |
| Joshua | Historical Narrative | Conquest and settlement of the Promised Land, leadership of Joshua, renewal of the covenant, tribal allotments. |
| Judges | Historical Narrative | Cycle of Israel's apostasy and God's deliverance through judges, the need for a king, depiction of moral and social decay. |
| Ruth | Narrative | Story of Ruth and Naomi, Boaz as the kinsman-redeemer, genealogical link to King David, themes of loyalty, redemption, and providence. |
| 1 Samuel | Historical Narrative | Transition from theocracy to monarchy, Samuel's judgeship, Saul's reign and failure, David's anointing and rise to power. |
| 2 Samuel | Historical Narrative | David's reign as king, his triumphs and failures, the Davidic Covenant, struggles within his own family, establishment of Jerusalem. |
| 1 Kings | Historical Narrative | Solomon's reign, building of the Temple, division of the kingdom, Elijah's prophetic ministry against Baal worship. |
| 2 Kings | Historical Narrative | Decline of Israel and Judah, prophetic ministries of Elijah and Elisha, the fall of both kingdoms, themes of judgment and exile. |

Knowing God > The Bible > Biblical Theology – II

| Book | Genre | Key Points of Contribution to Biblical Theology |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Chronicles | Historical Narrative | Focus on David's reign, his preparations for the Temple, his military and administrative achievements, genealogies of Israel. |
| 2 Chronicles | Historical Narrative | Solomon's reign and Temple construction, the kingdom's division, reform efforts of Judah's kings, eventual exile to Babylon. |
| Ezra | Historical Narrative | Return from Babylonian exile, rebuilding the Temple, Ezra's leadership in restoring the Law and covenant practices. |
| Nehemiah | Historical Narrative | Rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls, Nehemiah's reforms, social and religious restoration, focus on covenant fidelity. |
| Esther | Narrative | Jewish survival under Persian rule, Esther's role in saving her people, themes of providence, courage, and reversal of fate. |
| Job | Wisdom/Poetry | Examination of suffering, the nature of righteousness, God's sovereignty, dialogue on justice and retribution, God's response to Job. |
| Psalms | Poetry/Worship | Collection of songs and prayers expressing the full range of human emotions, messianic prophecies, praise and worship of God. |
| Proverbs | Wisdom | Collection of wise sayings and instructions for living a righteous and prudent life, fear of the Lord as the foundation of wisdom. |
| Ecclesiastes | Wisdom | Reflections on the meaning and futility of life without God, pursuit of wisdom, mortality, and the importance of fearing God. |
| Song of Solomon | Poetry | Poetic celebration of love between a bride and groom, allegorical interpretations about God's love for His people. |
| Isaiah | Prophecy | Prophecies concerning judgment and redemption, the Messiah, the suffering servant, restoration of Zion, and the new creation. |
| Jeremiah | Prophecy | Prophecies of doom for Judah, call for repentance, the new covenant, personal struggles of Jeremiah, fall of Jerusalem. |
| Lamentations | Poetry | Poetic laments over the destruction of Jerusalem, reflections on suffering and divine judgment, hope in God's enduring mercies. |

Knowing God > The Bible > Biblical Theology – III

| Book | Genre | Key Points of Contribution to Biblical Theology |
|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| Ezekiel | Prophecy | Visions of God's glory and judgment, symbolic acts, prophecies of restoration, the new temple, the valley of dry bones. |
| Daniel | Prophecy/ Apocalyptic | Stories of faith in exile, apocalyptic visions, the sovereignty of God over empires, eschatological hopes. |
| Hosea | Prophecy | Marriage metaphor for Israel's unfaithfulness and God's faithful love, call to repentance, promise of restoration. |
| Joel | Prophecy | The day of the Lord, locust plague as divine judgment, promise of the Spirit's outpouring, eschatological visions. |
| Amos | Prophecy | Calls for social justice, prophetic declarations of judgment against Israel and neighboring nations, visions of restoration. |
| Obadiah | Prophecy | Judgment against Edom for its arrogance and violence, the restoration of Israel, God's governance over nations. |
| Jonah | Narrative/ Prophecy | Jonah's mission to Nineveh, themes of God's mercy and sovereignty, Jonah's reluctance and God's compassion. |
| Micah | Prophecy | Justice, mercy, and humility, prophecies of judgment and restoration, Bethlehem prophecy concerning the Messiah. |
| Nahum | Prophecy | Proclamation of Nineveh's destruction, God's justice and power, divine retribution against Assyria. |
| Habakkuk | Prophecy | Dialogue with God regarding justice and suffering, faith in difficult times, God's sovereignty, vision of God's triumph. |
| Zephaniah | Prophecy | The day of the Lord, imminent judgment and the call to repentance, joyous restoration of Jerusalem. |
| Haggai | Prophecy | Urgency of rebuilding the Temple, encouragement to the returned exiles, God's promise of blessing and future glory. |
| Zechariah | Prophecy | Prophetic visions encouraging temple reconstruction, messianic expectations, God's future reign in Jerusalem. |
| Malachi | Prophecy | Disputation over proper temple practices, moral and social issues, promise of Elijah's return, call to faithfulness before God's judgment. |

Knowing God > The Bible

Bible Characters

Some from the Old Testament

Part 1: The Patriarchs and Foundational Figures

| Character | Key Lessons | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Adam and Eve | Consequences of disobedience and sin | Genesis 3; Romans 5:12 | The first humans, whose disobedience led to the fall of man, teaching about temptation, sin, and the need for redemption. |
| Enoch | Faithfulness and divine favor | Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5 | Known for his close walk with God, Enoch was taken to heaven without dying, exemplifying the reward of faithful communion with God. |
| Noah | Obedience and righteousness | Genesis 6-9; Hebrews 11:7 | Built the ark under God's direction, demonstrating obedience and faith in the midst of a corrupt world. |
| Abraham | Faith in God's promises and obedience | Genesis 12-22; Hebrews 11:8-19 | The "Father of Faith," who left his homeland and trusted God for a son, epitomizing obedience and faith. |
| Sarah | Patience and faith in God's promises | Hebrews 11:11; Genesis 18:12-14 | Struggled with faith in the promise of a child but ultimately saw God's promise fulfilled, teaching about patience and trust. |
| Isaac | Submission to God's will | Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-20 | His willingness to be sacrificed highlighted submission and foreshadowed Christ's sacrifice. |
| Jacob | Transformation and God's faithfulness | Genesis 25-50; Hebrews 11:21 | His life of struggles and eventual transformation into Israel teaches about God's power to transform lives. |
| Joseph | Integrity, providence, and forgiveness | Genesis 37-50; Psalm 105:17-19 | Rose to prominence in Egypt by God's hand; his forgiveness of his brothers demonstrates God's overarching sovereignty and mercy. |

Knowing God > The Bible> Bible Characters

Part 2: Leaders, Prophets, and Kings

| Character | Key Lessons | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| Moses | Leadership, humility, and law-giving | Exodus 1-40; Numbers 12:3; Deuteronomy 34:10 | Led the Israelites out of Egypt, received the Ten Commandments, exemplifying leadership, humility, and obedience to God. |
| Aaron | Priestly duties and consequences of leadership decisions | Exodus 28-29; Leviticus 8-9; Numbers 20:23-29 | Served as Israel's first high priest, his role emphasizes the importance and sanctity of priestly duties and the consequences of decisions in leadership. |
| Joshua | Courageous leadership and faithful service | Joshua 1-24; Hebrews 11:30 | Led Israel into the Promised Land, demonstrating faithfulness and courage in fulfilling God's commands. |
| Rahab | Faith in God's sovereignty and mercy | Joshua 2; 6:17-25; Hebrews 11:31 | A non-Israelite who protected Israelite spies, showing faith in God's power and receiving protection for her family in return. |
| Deborah | Leadership and wisdom | Judges 4-5; Hebrews 11:32 (general reference to Judges) | One of the major judges of Israel, led the nation with wisdom and courage, and played a key role in a crucial military victory. |
| Gideon | Reliance on God over human strength | Judges 6-8; Hebrews 11:32 (general reference to Judges) | His military victory with just 300 men highlighted God's power over human might and the importance of divine guidance. |
| Samson | Strength and consequences of personal failings | Judges 13-16; Hebrews 11:32 (general reference to Judges) | Known for his supernatural strength but also for his downfall due to personal weaknesses, teaching about the consequences of sin and the grace of redemption. |
| Samuel | Godly leadership and the importance of obedience | 1 Samuel 1-25; Psalm 99:6 | Served as a judge, priest, and prophet, played a pivotal role in the transition from judges to monarchy in Israel, emphasizing obedience to God. |

Knowing God > The Bible> Bible Characters

| Character | Key Lessons | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| Saul | The dangers of disobedience and pride | 1 Samuel 9-31 | First king of Israel whose reign was marred by disobedience to God, leading to his downfall, underscoring the dangers of pride and disobedience. |
| David | Heart after God and the fullness of repentance | 1 Samuel 16 - 1 Kings 2; Psalms; Acts 13:22 | A man after God's own heart who, despite his significant failings, showed deep repentance and a profound relationship with God through his psalms and actions. |
| Solomon | Wisdom and the pitfalls of wealth and power | 1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9 | Known for his wisdom but also for his eventual downfall due to wealth and foreign influences, highlighting both the gift of wisdom and the dangers of moral compromise. |

Part 3: Later Prophets and Leaders

| Character | Key Lessons | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Elijah | Zeal for God and the power of prayer | 1 Kings 17-19; James 5:17-18 | Known for his fierce devotion to God and confrontations with Baal worship; his life demonstrates the effectiveness of fervent prayer and the challenges of spiritual isolation. |
| Elisha | Succession in ministry and the multiplication of miracles | 2 Kings 2-13 | Followed Elijah and performed many miracles, showing God's continued work through His prophets and the importance of faithful discipleship. |
| Hezekiah | Faithfulness and God's deliverance | 2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32 | His reign is noted for religious reforms and his reliance on God during the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem, emphasizing trust in God's protection and guidance. |
| Isaiah | Prophetic insight and hope for redemption | Book of Isaiah | A major prophet who provided profound insights into God's judgments and future redemption, underscoring the holiness of God and the messianic hope. |

Knowing God > The Bible> Bible Characters

| Character | Key Lessons | Verses | Explanation |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Jeremiah | Perseverance in adversity and the new covenant | Book of Jeremiah; Lamentations | Known as the "weeping prophet" for his messages during Judah's darkest days, his teachings focus on repentance and the promise of a new covenant. |
| Ezekiel | Individual responsibility and God's glory | Book of Ezekiel | His visions and prophetic actions emphasize personal responsibility, the need for repentance, and the majestic visions of God's glory and restoration. |
| Daniel | Integrity in exile and prophetic visions | Book of Daniel | Maintained his faith in a foreign land, known for his prophetic visions about future kingdoms and the end times, demonstrating the sovereignty and providence of God. |
| Hosea | God's love and forgiveness despite betrayal | Book of Hosea | His personal life, married to an unfaithful wife, paralleled Israel's unfaithfulness and highlighted God's steadfast love and willingness to forgive. |
| Joel | The day of the Lord and the promise of His Spirit | Book of Joel | Predicts calamities as a sign of God's judgment but also foretells the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, emphasizing repentance and the restoration that follows. |
| Amos | Social justice and divine justice | Book of Amos | Focused on Israel's social injustices, emphasizing that true worship of God includes ethical behavior and justice. |
| Obadiah | Judgment on Edom and the sovereignty of God | Book of Obadiah | Focuses on the judgment against Edom as a consequence of their actions against Israel, underscoring themes of divine retribution and sovereignty. |
| Jonah | Mercy and repentance, universal scope of God's compassion | Book of Jonah | Known for his reluctance to prophesy to Nineveh and his subsequent realization of God's mercy for all people, not just Israel. |

Knowing God > The Bible> Bible Characters

| Character | Key Lessons | Verses | Explanation |
|------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Micah | Justice, mercy, and humility as divine requirements | Book of Micah | Known for his declaration that God requires us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God, encapsulating the ethical demands of true faith. |
| Nahum | Divine justice and the fall of Nineveh | Book of Nahum | Predicts the fall of Nineveh as an act of divine justice, illustrating God's control over nations and His punitive justice against wickedness. |
| Habakkuk | Faith in difficult times and questioning God | Book of Habakkuk | Engages in a profound dialogue with God about the problem of evil and justice, teaching that the righteous shall live by faith. |
| Zephaniah | The day of the Lord and spiritual renewal | Book of Zephaniah | Highlights the coming judgment but also the joy and renewal that will follow for those who seek God earnestly. |
| Haggai | Prioritizing God in our lives and the importance of temple rebuilding | Book of Haggai | Urges the people to prioritize the rebuilding of the temple over their own interests, emphasizing the need to put God first in all endeavors. |
| Zechariah | Encouragement and messianic prophecies | Book of Zechariah | Contains visions that encourage the people to continue rebuilding the temple and messianic prophecies that point to Christ. |
| Malachi | Reverence for God and warnings against complacency | Book of Malachi | The last prophet of the Old Testament, focusing on the proper worship of God and the dangers of spiritual complacency, setting the stage for the coming Messiah. |

Knowing God > The Bible> Bible Characters

Some from the New Testament

Part 1: Early New Testament Figures

| Character | Key Lessons | Verses | Explanation |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| John the Baptist | Faithfulness and Preparing the Way | Matthew 3:1-17; John 1:19-34 | Known for his ascetic lifestyle and role in heralding the arrival of Jesus, emphasizing repentance and the importance of preparing the way for the Lord. |
| Mary, Mother of Jesus | Obedience and Faith | Luke 1:26-38; John 2:1-5 | Exemplifies deep faith and submission to God's plan, becoming the mother of Jesus under extraordinary circumstances. |
| Joseph of Nazareth | Righteousness and Protective Care | Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-23 | Demonstrated faithfulness by obeying God's commands in protecting and caring for Mary and Jesus, showcasing righteousness in action. |
| The Apostles | Leadership and Evangelism | Matthew 10:1-4; Acts 1-28 | Chosen by Jesus to spread the Gospel, each apostle played a crucial role in the foundation and spread of early Christianity. |
| Peter | Leadership and Spiritual Growth | Matthew 14:22-33; Acts 2; 1 & 2 Peter | Evolved from a fisherman to a foundational leader of the early church, illustrating significant spiritual growth and leadership. |
| Mary Magdalene | Faithfulness and Witness to the Resurrection | John 20:1-18; Luke 8:2 | One of Jesus' most devoted followers, first to witness and announce His resurrection, demonstrating loyalty and courage. |
| Martha and Mary of Bethany | Service and Devotion | Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44 | Sisters known for their distinct acts of devotion—Martha through service and Mary through attentive listening and heartfelt worship. |

Knowing God > The Bible> Bible Characters

Part 2: Apostolic and Early Church Figures

| Character | Key Lessons | Verses | Explanation |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Stephen | Bold proclamation and martyrdom | Acts 6:8-7:60 | The first Christian martyr, known for his powerful preaching and steadfast faith even unto death, exemplifying courage and commitment. |
| Philip the Evangelist | Evangelism and cross-cultural ministry | Acts 8:5-40 | Known for his evangelistic zeal, particularly in reaching the Ethiopian eunuch, highlighting the importance of cross-cultural evangelism. |
| Paul (Saul of Tarsus) | Apostolic mission, theological depth, and endurance under persecution | Acts 9; Acts 13-28; Romans; 1 Corinthians; Galatians; Ephesians | Former persecutor turned apostle, Paul's missionary journeys, theological insights, and sufferings for the gospel shaped the early Church's expansion and doctrinal foundations. |
| Barnabas | Encouragement, generosity, and missionary collaboration | Acts 4:36-37; Acts 11:22-26; Acts 13-14 | Known as the "son of encouragement," Barnabas was crucial in the early Church for his role in mentoring Paul and supporting new believers. |
| Silas | Missionary work and support in Paul's journeys | Acts 15:22; Acts 16-18 | As Paul's companion on several missionary journeys, Silas demonstrated steadfastness and support in the spread of the Gospel. |
| Timothy | Youthful leadership and pastoral diligence | 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4 | A young pastor mentored by Paul, Timothy exemplifies the importance of trustworthy and diligent leadership in the early Church. |
| Titus | Church leadership and administrative skill | Titus 1-3 | As a key organizer in the early Church, Titus was pivotal in establishing church order and resolving conflicts within the community. |

Knowing God > The Bible> Bible Characters

| Character | Key Lessons | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Priscilla and Aquila | Teaching and mentoring in the faith | Acts 18:2-3, 18-26; Romans 16:3-4 | This couple was instrumental in teaching and nurturing early Christians, including Apollos, showcasing the impact of lay ministry and discipleship. |
| Lydia | Hospitality and support for missionaries | Acts 16:14-15, 40 | A businesswoman whose home became a hub for Paul and his companions, demonstrating the critical role of hospitality in ministry. |
| Epaphroditus | Sacrificial service and commitment | Philippians 2:25-30 | Commended for his hard work and risking his life for the work of Christ, illustrating deep commitment to the service of the Church. |

Part 3: Later New Testament Figures and Their Contributions

| Character | Key Lessons | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|----------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Phoebe | Service and support in the Church | Romans 16:1-2 | Phoebe is noted for her role as a deaconess and benefactor of Paul and many others, exemplifying the vital role of women in early Christian ministry. |
| Apollos | Eloquent preaching and teachability | Acts 18:24-28; 1 Corinthians 3:6 | Known for his eloquence and thorough knowledge of the Scriptures, Apollos played a significant role in teaching and strengthening the early believers. His willingness to learn and grow in understanding showcases the importance of humility and ongoing discipleship. |
| Junia | Apostolic ministry and early church leadership | Romans 16:7 | Junia, noted among the apostles, highlights the significant and often underrecognized role of women in the early missionary efforts and church leadership. |

Knowing God > The Bible> Bible Characters

| Character | Key Lessons | Verses | Explanation |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| John the Apostle | Theological insight, pastoral care, and visionary prophecy | Gospel of John; 1, 2, and 3 John; Revelation | As one of Jesus' closest disciples, John contributed profound theological insights through his writings, pastoral letters, and the apocalyptic visions of Revelation, focusing on love, truth, and the eternal life in Christ. |
| Mark (John Mark) | Gospel authorship and missionary work | Acts 12:12, 25; Acts 13:5, 13; 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13 | Initially faltering in his missionary journey, Mark later became a pivotal figure in the early church, authoring the Gospel of Mark and serving as a missionary alongside Barnabas and Paul. |
| Luke | Gospel authorship and historical documentation | Gospel of Luke; Acts of the Apostles | A physician and historian, Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke and Acts, providing a detailed account of Jesus' life and the early church, emphasizing the universality of the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit. |
| Dorcas (Tabitha) | Charity and good works | Acts 9:36-42 | Known for her acts of charity and good works in Joppa, Dorcas' life and resurrection by Peter underscore the impact of practical kindness and community service within the church. |
| Clement of Rome | Early church father and epistle writing | Philippians 4:3; | An early bishop of Rome, Clement is mentioned by Paul and known for his epistle to the Corinthian church, which emphasizes church order, humility, and the apostolic tradition. |
| Silvanus (Silas) | Missionary partnership and scriptural transmission | 1 Peter 5:12; 2 Corinthians 1:19; Acts 15:22 | A leading member of the early Christian community, Silvanus helped carry and distribute Peter and Paul's letters, playing a crucial role in the foundational days of the church. |

The Apostles' Teaching

The "apostles' teaching" referred to in Acts, notably in Acts 2:42, encapsulates the foundational doctrines and teachings delivered by the apostles to the early Christian community after Pentecost. This teaching includes a broad spectrum of doctrines concerning the life, death, resurrection, and teachings of Jesus Christ, as well as the nature of the Church, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the inclusion of the Gentiles. Central to the apostles' teaching was the deep integration and affirmation of the Old Testament, both in understanding the character and plans of God the Father and in recognizing the fulfillment of His promises through Jesus Christ.

These teachings, foundational for the Christian faith, not only detail the life and ministry of Jesus but also emphasize the continuity of God's redemptive plan from the Old Testament to the New. The apostles frequently cited Old Testament prophecies, highlighting Jesus as the Messiah and affirming the sovereignty of God the Father, His creation, His authority over history, and His faithfulness to covenant promises. The apostles' message articulated the ongoing story of redemption, from the call of Israel to the proclamation of the gospel to all nations, underlining the Old Testament's relevance and authority in the Christian faith.

In their extensive use of the Old Testament, the apostles taught about God's sovereign plan of salvation, His character, and His expectations for ethical living, drawing deeply from the theological well of the Hebrew Scriptures. This approach showed that the coming of Jesus and the formation of the Church were not departures from God's earlier revelations but were their culmination and fulfillment. Through their teachings, the apostles bridged the narratives of the Old and New Testaments, presenting a unified and coherent story of God's work among His people.

Knowing God > The Bible > The Apostles' Teaching – II

1. Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy

The Apostles frequently taught that Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and the establishment of the church were fulfillments of Old Testament prophecies. This is evident in Peter's speeches in Acts, where he quotes extensively from the Psalms, the Prophets, and other Hebrew Scriptures to demonstrate that Jesus is the promised Messiah (Acts 2:14-36, Acts 3:18-25).

2. God the Father's Sovereignty and Covenant Faithfulness

The Apostles emphasized the sovereignty of God the Father, His creation of the world, and His authority over history. They highlighted His faithfulness to His covenant promises made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David, showing that the coming of Jesus and the inclusion of the Gentiles into the faith were part of God's sovereign plan (Acts 3:13, Acts 13:32-33).

3. Continuity of God's Character and Plan

Teaching on the continuity of God's character from the Old Testament to the New Testament, the Apostles affirmed the one God of Israel as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. They presented God's plan of salvation as one continuous story of redemption, from the call of Israel to be a light to the nations to the proclamation of the gospel to all people (Acts 13:16-23, Romans 15:8-12).

4. The Law, Prophets, and Writings

The Apostles taught respect for the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings (the threefold division of the Hebrew Bible), not as a means of salvation through works but as revealing God's character, will, and the coming of Christ. Paul, for example, argued that the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith (Galatians 3:24).

5. Theological Concepts Rooted in the Old Testament

Key theological concepts taught by the Apostles, such as creation, sin, redemption, sacrifice, atonement, and the kingdom of God, are deeply rooted in the Old Testament. They used these concepts to explain the significance of Jesus' ministry and the nature of the Christian life (Romans 3:21-26, Hebrews 8:1-13).

6. God as Creator and Father

The Apostles maintained the Old Testament teaching of God as the Creator of the universe and humanity. They also emphasized His role as Father, not only of Israel but of all who believe in Christ, highlighting a personal and relational aspect of God's nature (Acts 17:24-28, 1 Corinthians 8:6).

7. Ethical and Moral Teachings

The moral and ethical teachings of the Apostles often drew on the Old Testament, advocating for a way of life that reflected the holiness, justice, and mercy of God as revealed in the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17-20, James 2:8).

8. The Use of the Old Testament in Teaching and Preaching

The Apostles extensively used the Old Testament in their teaching and preaching, both to argue for the Messiahship of Jesus and to instruct new believers in ethical conduct and doctrinal truths (Acts 8:26-35, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Knowing God > The Bible > The Apostles' Teaching – III

9. The Life and Teachings of Jesus

The apostles taught about Jesus' life, ministry, parables, miracles, teachings, death, and resurrection. They emphasized His teachings as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and the foundation of Christian ethics and behavior.

10. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Central to the apostles' teaching was the proclamation of Jesus' death by crucifixion, His burial, and His resurrection on the third day, all of which were seen as fulfillment of the Scriptures and the basis of salvation.

11. The Nature of Jesus as Both Lord and Christ

They proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah (Christ) and Lord, asserting His divinity, lordship over all creation, and His role as the savior of humanity.

12. The Coming of the Holy Spirit

The teachings included the promise of the Holy Spirit, who was sent by Jesus after His ascension to empower the church, guide believers, and continue the work of Jesus through the church.

13. Repentance, Baptism, and Forgiveness of Sins

The apostolic message called for repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Baptism was taught as an outward sign of an inward faith and commitment to Christ.

14. The Formation of a New Community in Christ

They taught about the formation of a new community of believers, characterized by unity, love, and communal sharing, as well as the breaking of bread (likely referring both to fellowship meals and the Lord's Supper) and prayer.

15. Ethical Living and Moral Transformation

The apostles emphasized ethical teachings that reflected the teachings of Jesus, including love, humility, service, and moral transformation in line with the Holy Spirit's work in believers.

16. The Return of Christ and Eschatological Hope

Teachings also included the promise of Jesus' return, the resurrection of the dead, final judgment, and the hope of eternal life for believers.

17. Inclusion of Gentiles in God's Plan

As the church expanded, the apostles addressed the inclusion of Gentiles into what had been a predominantly Jewish community, affirming that salvation through Jesus Christ was available to all people, regardless of ethnic background.

Knowing God > The Bible

God's Will

Let's read this passage where Jesus speaks of us His children that carry out God's Will.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV): "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only the one who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

Even the apostle Paul writes about God's Will:

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV): "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**"

We understand that we as children of God are here to carry out His Will in this world.

God's Will **cannot be found** outside God's Word, the Bible.

Even, if we just consider a Bible passage or a verse or a sign or a word of prayer, that would be **unwise to claim that we found God's Will for it doesn't consider the whole counsel of God collectively.**

Such moves would turn out to be unwise when we examine them in the light of God's Word on a later day.

When we are sincerely determined to carry out God's will, it's important to carefully study and comprehend God's Word, the Bible. This involves gaining an overall understanding of the Bible and delving deeper into its various aspects through exploration of all its books.

Doing God's Will = Understanding God's Word + Obeying it
[Matthew 12:48-50, Mark 3:33-35 = Luke 8:20-21]

The general revealed known Will of God is that which is evident from the Word of God the Bible.

Finding the specific Will of God needs genuine alignment with the WHOLE BIBLE and the carrying out of the general revealed Will of God daily.
The principles drawn from the Bible can be applied to specific circumstances.
Hence it is always in line with the Bible.

Psalm 119:105 (NIV): "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
Let's go little further in understanding the revealed and specific Will of God.

www.johnmangam.com/life

Knowing God > The Bible > God's Will

General / Revealed / Known God's Will

Doing God's Will = Understanding God's Word + Obeying it
[Matthew 12:48-50, Mark 3:33-35 = Luke 8:20-21]

| Category | References | Description |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| OBEDIENCE | John 14:15, 1 Samuel 15:22 | OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMANDS IS A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF LIVING IN HIS WILL. |
| Love | Matthew 22:37-40, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Love is the greatest commandment. |
| Holiness | 1 Peter 1:15-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:3 | God calls His people to live holy and sanctified lives, avoiding sin and embodying God's character. |
| Justice and Mercy | Micah 6:8, Proverbs 21:3 | Acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God are key aspects of living according to His will. |
| Thankfulness and Prayer | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6 | Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. |
| Salvation | John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:3-4 | God desires all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. |
| Repentance | 2 Peter 3:9, Acts 17:30 | God desires everyone to come to repentance and acknowledge Him. |
| Wisdom | James 1:5, Proverbs 2:6-8 | Seeking and acting according to God's wisdom is encouraged for discerning His will in our lives. |
| Service and Stewardship | Matthew 25:35-40, 1 Peter 4:10 | Serving others and stewarding God's creation responsibly reflect living according to God's will. |
| Peace and Reconciliation | Matthew 5:9, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 | God calls us to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation, embodying the peace of Christ in the world. |
| Evangelism | Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8 | Sharing the gospel and making disciples of all nations is a clear aspect of God's will for His followers. |
| Spiritual Growth | Ephesians 4:11-16, 2 Peter 3:18 | Growing in spiritual maturity and unity in the faith is part of God's will for the believer's life. |

Knowing God > The Bible > God's Will

Specific God's Will

Doing God's Will = Understanding God's Word + Obeying it
[Matthew 12:48-50, Mark 3:33-35 = Luke 8:20-21]

God's Will cannot be found outside God's Word, the Bible.

Even, if we just consider a Bible passage or a verse or a sign or a word of prayer,
that would be **unwise to claim that we found God's Will**
for it doesn't consider the whole counsel of God collectively.

Such moves would turn out to be unwise when we examine them in the light of
God's Word on a later day. **They are self-deceptive!**

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper
worship."

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of
your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good,
pleasing and perfect will."

FINDING THE SPECIFIC WILL OF GOD

Patiently follow these guidelines fully relying on the help of Holy Spirit:

1. Genuinely align ENTIRE LIFE with the WHOLE BIBLE, not just parts of it.
2. Carefully gain the overall understanding of the whole of God's Word, the Bible.
3. Gain deeper understanding of all the aspects that are to be understood from all the books of the Bible unselectively. God wants us to be equipped wholistically and thoroughly with the Bible in order to be fully aligned with His heart.
4. Don't hastily consider a Bible passage / verse, or a sign or a prayer or a sermon or someone's counsel to determine the Will of God, it is unwise and deceptive.
5. Avoid hasty, reckless, ignorant and fleshly choices and seek the glory of God.
6. Disobedience to general, revealed and known Will of God will block our steps for effective walk with God. Eternal perspectives help while fleshly ones harm.
7. Rely fully on the help of the Holy Spirit to guide according to the Bible.
8. Seek to do God's Will in every aspect of life both big and small consistently.
9. Understand the Bible as a whole and all the books in it.
10. Understand the heart and mind of God from the entire Bible.
11. Apply Biblical teachings to the specific situations.
12. Apply Biblical principles when there are no direct teachings.
13. Share your understanding with spiritually mature friends or mentors for their wholistic insights.
14. God leads us in a way that TOTALLY aligns with His Word, the Bible.
15. Don't be afraid to carry out His Will for He is with us. There could be opposition.
16. Joyfully move ahead in carrying it out for it is obeying our Master. His grace is sufficient in the unexpected challenges. It is way better than getting disciplined or chastised by our Lord for the self-willed choices.

Knowing God > The Bible

Hermeneutics

Learning the **Literal or Grammatical-Historical** approach to biblical interpretation involves **understanding the Bible** by **considering its grammatical details and historical context**, aiming to **grasp the original meaning intended by the authors**. This method seeks to take the Bible at face value, **interpreting texts in their literal sense unless there is a clear indication that a symbolic or allegorical interpretation** is intended. Here's a basic overview of the approach:

1. Understand the Basics

- **Definition:** Familiarize yourself with the principles of the grammatical-historical approach. This includes understanding that the Bible is to be interpreted based on the normal rules of grammar, the historical context in which it was written, and the genre of literature.
- **Objective:** The primary objective is to discern the original intent of the Bible's authors and how their original audience would have understood the text.

2. Study Grammar and Language

- **Original Languages:** Learning the basics of Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek can be incredibly helpful, as it allows for a deeper understanding of the original texts. Even a foundational knowledge can enrich your study.
- **English Grammar:** A solid understanding of grammar in your own language is also crucial for interpreting texts accurately.

3. Learn Historical Context

- **Biblical History:** Study the historical context of the biblical texts, including the cultural, socio-political, and religious backgrounds of the periods in which they were written.
- **Ancillary Studies:** Explore archaeological findings, ancient near eastern texts, and historical works that provide insight into the biblical world.

4. Explore Biblical Genres

- **Literary Genres:** Recognize and understand the various genres within the Bible, such as narrative, poetry, prophecy, epistle, and apocalyptic literature, and learn how each should be interpreted.

5. Use Commentaries and Lexicons

- **Resources:** Utilize commentaries that focus on the grammatical-historical approach. Lexicons and Bible dictionaries are also invaluable for understanding the original meanings of words and phrases.

6. Engage in Biblical Theology

- **Theological Context:** While focusing on the historical and grammatical aspects, don't neglect the theological coherence of Scripture. Understanding the overarching themes and theological premises of the Bible is crucial.

7. Practice Interpretation

- **Exegesis:** Regularly practice exegesis, the process of drawing out the text's meaning according to its context. Start with shorter passages and gradually work up to more complex texts.
- **Apply Principles:** Apply grammatical-historical principles systematically to your studies, asking critical questions about the author's intent, the meaning of words in their original languages, and the historical circumstances of the text.

Knowing God > The Bible

Hermeneutics – II

In the Literal or Grammatical-Historical approach to biblical interpretation, **several important cautions and principles** guide how different types of biblical literature should be understood and applied. These cautions help ensure a responsible and accurate handling of the biblical text. **Here are some key principles:**

1. Narrative vs. Didactic Texts

- **Principle:** Narrative texts (stories) in the Bible, such as those found in the historical books, Gospels, and Acts, are primarily descriptive, recounting what happened. Didactic texts, like the Epistles, are prescriptive, teaching and instructing in doctrine and ethics.
- **Cautions:** Be cautious about deriving doctrine directly from narratives without support from clearer didactic passages. Narratives illustrate how God works in history and lives but may not always set forth principles meant for direct application.

2. Context Is Crucial

- **Principle:** Every text must be read in its immediate context (the verses around it), the broader context of the book it's in, and the context of the whole Bible (canonical context).
- **Cautions:** Avoid proof-texting, where isolated verses are taken out of context to support a point. This can lead to misinterpretation and the development of doctrine not supported by the full counsel of Scripture.

3. Genre Sensitivity

- **Principle:** The Bible contains various genres (law, prophecy, wisdom literature, poetry, narrative, epistle, apocalyptic), each with its conventions.
- **Cautions:** Misinterpretation can occur when the genre is not considered. For example, apocalyptic literature (like Revelation) uses symbolic language that should not be interpreted in the same literal way as historical narrative.

4. Progressive Revelation

- **Principle:** Scripture reveals God's will and purposes progressively over time, culminating in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- **Cautions:** Earlier revelations (e.g., Old Testament laws) are understood in light of the full revelation in Christ. Be cautious not to apply Old Testament laws directly without considering their fulfillment in Christ and their relevance under the New Covenant.

5. Cultural and Historical Context

- **Principle:** The Bible was written in specific cultural and historical contexts that differ from modern times.
- **Cautions:** Be wary of applying cultural practices directly to today without understanding the cultural and historical reasons behind them. Distinguish between cultural expressions of timeless truths and the truths themselves.

Knowing God > The Bible

Hermeneutics – III

6. Unity of Scripture

- **Principle:** Scripture is a unified whole, inspired by God, and is coherent in its teaching.
- **Cautions:** Avoid interpretations that pit one part of Scripture against another. Seek interpretations that harmonize with the overall teaching of the Bible.

7. Christocentric Interpretation

- **Principle:** Christ is the climax of biblical revelation. The Old Testament points forward to Him, and the New Testament reveals and expounds His work.
- **Cautions:** Ensure that interpretations are consistent with the centrality of Christ in Scripture. Avoid interpretations that diminish His work or person.

8. Application and Doctrine

- **Principle:** Distinguishing between descriptive passages that tell what happened and prescriptive passages that command or teach us what should happen is vital.
- **Cautions:** Exercise caution in directly applying narrative details as norms for behavior or doctrine without clear didactic support.

9. Authorial Intent

- **Principle:** Seek to understand what the author intended to communicate to the original audience.
- **Cautions:** Avoid imposing modern questions or concerns on the text, which can lead to anachronistic interpretations. The question should not be "What does this mean to me?" before asking, "What did this mean to its original readers?"

10. Linguistic Sensitivity

- **Principle:** Pay attention to the original languages of Scripture (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), including grammar, syntax, and lexical meaning.
- **Cautions:** Be cautious about building doctrine on the basis of a single word study without considering the word's use in broader biblical and cultural contexts. Remember that words can have a range of meanings determined by their context.

11. Theological Coherence

- **Principle:** Scripture should be interpreted in a way that maintains the coherence and unity of biblical doctrine.
- **Cautions:** Avoid interpretations that create theological contradictions. Interpret difficult or unclear passages in light of clear, foundational truths of the Christian faith.

12. Avoiding Eisegesis

- **Principle:** Exegesis involves drawing out the text's meaning according to its context (the opposite of eisegesis, which imposes the reader's interpretation onto the text).
- **Cautions:** Guard against reading personal biases, traditions, or preconceived notions into the text. Approach Scripture with humility, seeking to hear its message rather than confirming pre-existing opinions.

Knowing God > The Bible

Hermeneutics – IV

13. Respecting the Clarity of Scripture

- **Principle:** The Bible is clear in its essential teachings (the doctrine of the clarity of Scripture or perspicuity).
- **Cautions:** Be wary of interpretations that rely on obscure or convoluted reasoning. The core message of the Gospel and key doctrines should be understandable to the average reader, though deeper study can uncover further riches and complexities.

14. Community and Tradition

- **Principle:** The interpretation of Scripture does not happen in isolation but within the community of faith, informed by historical church teaching and tradition.
- **Cautions:** While tradition should not have equal authority with Scripture, completely disregarding the historical interpretations and creeds of the church can lead to novel or heretical interpretations. Value the insights of the wider Christian tradition while testing everything by Scripture.

15. Prayerful Dependence

- **Principle:** Recognize the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and enlightening the reader to understand Scripture.
- **Cautions:** Do not rely solely on intellectual or academic approaches to Scripture. Approach the text prayerfully, asking for the Spirit's guidance to understand and apply God's Word rightly.

16. Ethical and Moral Implications

- **Principle:** Biblical interpretation should lead to transformation and ethical living, in line with the moral teachings of Scripture.
- **Cautions:** Avoid interpretations that justify unethical behavior or that are disconnected from the moral and ethical demands of the Gospel. Interpretation should lead to application that reflects the character of Christ.

17. Interpretation in Light of Redemptive History

- **Principle:** Understand Scripture within the overarching narrative of redemptive history—Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation.
- **Cautions:** Avoid interpretations that ignore the redemptive historical context of a passage. Each text should be seen as part of the broader narrative of God's saving work throughout history.

18. Sensitivity to Biblical Typology

- **Principle:** Recognize and understand typological elements where the New Testament identifies them (e.g., Adam as a "type" of Christ).
- **Cautions:** Exercise caution in identifying types and antitypes not explicitly validated by Scripture itself. Overzealous typology can lead to speculative interpretations.

Knowing God > The Bible

Hermeneutics – V

19. Awareness of Biblical Covenants

- **Principle:** Understand the role of biblical covenants and how they contribute to the structure and unity of biblical revelation.
- **Cautions:** Avoid conflating the different covenants or applying conditions of one covenant to the era of another without scriptural warrant. Recognize the continuity and discontinuity between the covenants.

20. Appreciation for the Variety of Scriptural Discourse

- **Principle:** Recognize and interpret according to the variety of discursive strategies in Scripture, including argumentation, persuasion, narrative development, and poetic expression.
- **Cautions:** Be careful not to interpret poetic or apocalyptic language with the same literalness as narrative or didactic texts. Recognize rhetorical devices and figures of speech.

21. Engagement with the Original Audiences' Understanding

- **Principle:** Seek to understand how the original audience would have understood the text, taking into account their linguistic, cultural, and situational contexts.
- **Cautions:** Avoid interpretations that disregard the horizon of expectation and understanding of the original audience. The text should first be understood in the context of its immediate recipients.

22. Recognition of Scripture's Self-Interpretation

- **Principle:** Allow Scripture to interpret Scripture. This means letting clearer passages shed light on more obscure ones and seeing how the New Testament authors interpreted the Old Testament.
- **Cautions:** Be cautious about imposing a system of interpretation on the text rather than letting the text's own interconnectedness guide understanding.

23. Integration of Biblical and Systematic Theology

- **Principle:** Use the insights of systematic theology to inform interpretation, ensuring that interpretations are consistent with the broader doctrines of the faith.
- **Cautions:** Avoid forcing a passage to fit into a preconceived theological system at the expense of the text's own testimony. Interpretation should inform and be informed by theology, in a reciprocal relationship.

24. Emphasis on the Kingdom of God

- **Principle:** Recognize the centrality of the Kingdom of God in biblical revelation, seeing how texts relate to the kingdom's inauguration in Christ and its consummation at the end of the age.
- **Cautions:** Avoid interpretations that neglect the already-but-not-yet nature of the Kingdom of God, misapplying eschatological promises or kingdom ethics.

25. Commitment to Doctrinal and Ethical Fidelity

- **Principle:** Ensure that interpretation leads to faithfulness in doctrine and ethics, reflecting the character and will of God as revealed in Scripture.
- **Cautions:** Guard against interpretations that compromise on biblical truth or ethical standards under cultural, social, or personal pressures.

Knowing God > The Church History

Ignorance of the Church History leads to several key issues of Spiritual Growth.

Ephesians 4:11 tells us that the Church has been given the Spiritual Leaders for its health.

Neglecting their contribution to the Church is against God's design.

It is God's design that we learn from them and pass it on to others.

We have a rich heritage of godly people
who were passionate about their faith
and their walk with God.

They courageously went head-on against
the teachings that they found to be against the Scriptures
even risking their lives.

A few remarkable qualities in their lives are:

Their love for God

Their passion for the passed on teaching

Their convictions that they boldly stood for

Their courage to go against the world for the sake of Truth of the Scriptures

The challenges that they joyfully faced even death

Their time in understanding the Truth

Their efforts in passing on of the Truth

They persevered even when they were tagged as heresy

They dealt with loneliness for they held on to less to no popular views

They relied on God for everything

Let's take a look at a few key contributions made in the Church History
across the centuries:

Knowing God > The Church History > Key contributions

| Period | Name | Contribution | Teachings Opposed | Challenges |
|-----------------|--|--|---|--|
| 1st Century | Apostles (e.g., Peter, Paul, John) | Foundation of Christian doctrine and communities, New Testament writings | Gnosticism, Judaizing, Docetism | Persecution, Martyrdom |
| c. 69-155 | Ignatius of Antioch | Emphasized ecclesiastical unity, the reality of Christ's humanity | Gnosticism, Docetism | Arrest, Martyrdom |
| c. 69-156 | Polycarp | Bridging the apostolic and post-apostolic eras, opposing heresies | Gnosticism, Marcionism | Martyrdom by burning |
| c. 130-202 | Irenaeus of Lyons | Development of Christian theology against Gnosticism, unity of the Old and New Testament | Gnosticism, Marcionism | N/A |
| c. 160-225 | Tertullian | Coined Trinitarian terminology, defended Christianity against pagan critiques | Montanism (later association), Gnosticism | Legal and social challenges |
| c. 185-253 | Origen | Systematic theology, allegorical Scripture interpretation, extensive biblical commentary | Various early heresies, including modalism and Gnosticism | Torture, Imprisonment during Decian persecution, Condemnation posthumously |
| c. 200-258 | Cyprian of Carthage | Unity of the Church, sacramental theology | Novatian schism (rigorism), persecution | Martyrdom during Valerian persecution |
| 2nd-3rd Century | Early Church Fathers (e.g., Clement of Alexandria) | Christian doctrine, engagement with Greek philosophy | Gnosticism, Early Christian heresies | Social and legal challenges |

Knowing God > The Church History > Key contributions

| Period | Name | Contribution | Teachings Opposed | Challenges |
|------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 4th Century | Athanasius of Alexandria | Defended the Nicene Creed's teachings on Christ's divinity against Arianism | Arianism | Exile and opposition from Arian-sympathizing emperors |
| 4th Century | Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus (Cappadocian Fathers) | Clarified the doctrine of the Trinity, distinguishing between essence and persons | Arianism, Apollinarianism | Opposition from Arian and Apollinarian sympathizers |
| 4th Century | Ambrose of Milan | Defended the independence of the Church from the State, opposed Arianism | Arianism | Conflict with Arian emperors, governmental pressure |
| Late 4th Century | John Chrysostom | Preaching and liturgical reforms, emphasized care for the poor | Arianism, abuses within the Church | Exile and conflict with ecclesiastical and political authorities |
| Late 4th - Early 5th Century | Augustine of Hippo | Developed doctrines of original sin, grace, and the Church; opposed Pelagianism and Donatism | Pelagianism, Donatism, Manichaeism | Controversies and debates with heretical groups |
| 5th Century | Cyril of Alexandria | Championed the doctrine of Christ's single personhood at the Council of Ephesus, opposed Nestorianism | Nestorianism | Conflict with Nestorius and his followers, political intrigue |
| 5th Century | Leo the Great | Through the Tome of Leo, contributed significantly to the Chalcedonian definition of Christ's two natures | Monophysitism, Eutychianism | Maintaining unity of the Church in the face of heresy and political division |
| 5th Century | Patrick of Ireland | Christianization of Ireland, established churches and monastic communities | Druidism, local pagan practices | Navigating a predominantly pagan culture, isolation from Roman ecclesiastical structures |

Knowing God > The Church History > Key contributions

| Period | Name | Contribution | Teachings Opposed | Challenges |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| 6th Century | Benedict of Nursia | Founded the Benedictine Order, establishing a monastic rule that balanced prayer and work. | Moral decay of the time | Establishing monasticism in a chaotic post-Roman Europe. |
| 8th Century | Boniface | Known as the Apostle of Germany, he reformed the Frankish Church and established monastic centers. | Pagan practices among newly converted Christians. | Resistance from local pagan tribes and syncretism among converts. |
| 9th Century | Alcuin of York | Led the Carolingian Renaissance, revitalizing Christian scholarship and education. | Ignorance and loss of classical learning. | Restoring education in an era of widespread illiteracy. |
| 11th-12th Century | Bernard of Clairvaux | Influential in the Cistercian Reform, emphasizing a return to strict monastic life and played a key role in the Second Crusade. | Lax monastic practices, schism, heresies like Catharism. | Political entanglements, the failure of the Second Crusade. |
| 12th-13th Century | Thomas Aquinas | Synthesized Aristotelian philosophy with Christian theology, author of Summa Theologica. | Averroism, various theological errors. | Skepticism towards the use of reason in theology. |
| 13th Century | Francis of Assisi | Founded the Franciscan Order, emphasizing poverty, humility, and care for creation. | Materialism within the church, the growing divide between clergy and laity. | Institutional resistance, health issues. |
| 14th Century | Catherine of Siena | Her letters and dialogues influenced the papacy to return to Rome from Avignon, emphasized mystical union with Christ. | Corruption within the church, the Avignon Papacy. | Political and ecclesiastical opposition. |
| Late 14th - Early 15th Century | John Wycliffe | Early critic of papal authority and advocate for scripture in vernacular; his followers, the Lollards, preceded Protestant reform. | Clerical corruption, indulgences, doctrinal errors. | Official condemnation, posthumous exhumation and burning. |
| 15th Century | Jan Hus | Influenced by Wycliffe, he called for church reform and was martyred for his beliefs, becoming a precursor to the Reformation. | Sale of indulgences, moral decay of the clergy. | Condemnation and martyrdom at the Council of Constance. |

Knowing God > The Church History > Key contributions

| Period | Name | Contribution | Teachings Opposed | Challenges |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Early 16th Century | Martin Luther | Sparked the Reformation with his 95 Theses, emphasized justification by faith alone, translated the Bible into German. | Sale of indulgences, Papal authority, Justification by works | Excommunication, Imperial Ban |
| Early 16th Century | Ulrich Zwingli | Initiated reform in Zurich, emphasizing the authority of Scripture and rejecting practices not based in Scripture, such as the use of images in worship and the Mass. | The Mass, Use of images, Clerical celibacy | Conflict with Swiss Catholic cantons, death in battle |
| Early 16th Century | John Calvin | Developed Reformed theology in his Institutes of the Christian Religion, emphasizing the sovereignty of God, predestination, and a systematic approach to Christian doctrine. | Papal authority, Sacramental theology apart from Scriptural basis | Opposition from within Geneva, challenges in establishing church governance |
| Early 16th Century | Thomas Cranmer | Key figure in the English Reformation, compiled the Book of Common Prayer, moved the Church of England towards Reformation principles. | Papal supremacy, Certain sacramental practices | Political and religious turbulence, Martyrdom under Mary I |
| Mid 16th Century | John Knox | Led the Scottish Reformation, laying the foundations of Presbyterianism, emphasizing church governance by elders and the rejection of papal authority. | Papal authority, "Idolatry" of Catholic worship practices | Imprisonment, exile, opposition from the Scottish nobility |
| Early 16th Century | William Tyndale | Translated the Bible into English from Hebrew and Greek texts, making Scripture accessible to the English-speaking public. | Church's restriction on vernacular Scripture, Clerical ignorance | Executed for heresy |
| Early 16th Century | Anabaptists (e.g., Menno Simons) | Advocated for adult baptism, separation of church and state, and a radical return to New Testament Christianity. | Infant baptism, State church system | Persecution by both Catholics and Protestants |
| Early 16th Century | Philipp Melancthon | Collaborator of Luther, instrumental in formulating the Lutheran Confessions, and advanced Lutheran education. | Catholic teachings on justification and sacraments | Balancing reform with maintaining unity |

Knowing God > The Church History > Key contributions

| Period | Name | Contribution | Teachings Opposed | Challenges |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Early 17th Century | James Arminius | Challenged Calvinist predestination, leading to Arminianism, emphasizing free will in salvation. | Strict Calvinist predestination | Opposition from Calvinist theologians |
| Early 17th Century | John Owen | Prominent Puritan theologian, contributed to the development of Congregationalism, and defended high Calvinism. | Arminianism, Catholicism | Political upheaval, the Restoration |
| Mid 17th Century | Richard Baxter | A moderate Puritan who sought ecclesiastical reform and promoted pastoral care and ecumenism. | Sectarianism, Antinomianism | Persecution after the Restoration |
| Mid 17th Century | Thomas Hobbes | Political philosopher who wrote Leviathan, advocating for the absolute sovereignty of the state over the church. | Papal authority, Divine right of kings | Criticism for perceived atheism and materialism |
| Late 17th Century | John Bunyan | Baptist preacher and author of Pilgrim's Progress, symbolizing the Christian journey of faith. | State church, Religious persecution | Imprisonment for nonconformity |
| Late 17th Century | George Fox | Founded the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), emphasizing direct personal experience of God and pacifism. | Formalism, Clericalism | Persecution for nonconformity |
| Throughout 17th Century | Various Puritan Leaders | Sought to purify the Church of England and later establish new models of Christian society in the American colonies. | Catholic practices, Episcopal governance | Royal opposition, Internal divisions |

Knowing God > The Church History > Key contributions

| Period | Name | Contribution | Teachings Opposed | Challenges |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1730s-1740s (First Great Awakening) | Jonathan Edwards | Preached justification by faith alone, the importance of a personal conversion experience, and divine sovereignty. | Religious formalism, Spiritual complacency | Opposition from established clergy, eventual dismissal from his congregation |
| 1730s-1740s (First Great Awakening) | George Whitefield | Itinerant preacher who spread the revival across the colonies, known for his dramatic and emotional preaching style. | Spiritual deadness within the Church of England, Nominal Christianity | Criticism and hostility from established churches, physical exhaustion |
| 1790s-1840s (Second Great Awakening) | Charles Finney | Innovated new methods of revival, including the "anxious bench" and protracted meetings, emphasizing human agency in conversion. | Calvinistic determinism, Cold intellectualism in religion | Skepticism about revival methods, Opposition from traditional Calvinists |
| 1790s-1840s (Second Great Awakening) | Francis Asbury | Circuit-riding Methodist preacher who played a key role in spreading Methodism across the American frontier. | Formalism and hierarchy in Anglicanism | Logistical challenges of itinerant ministry, Opposition in frontier territories |
| Early 19th Century | Lyman Beecher | Presbyterian minister influential in promoting revivalism and moral reform, including temperance and abolition. | Religious apathy, Social ills like slavery and alcoholism | Resistance from conservative religious and social elements |
| 1790s-1840s (Second Great Awakening) | Barton W. Stone & Alexander Campbell | Leaders in the Restoration Movement, seeking to restore the New Testament church and promote Christian unity. | Denominational divisions, Creedalism | Opposition from established denominations, Challenges in promoting unity |

Knowing God > The Church History > Key contributions

| Period | Name | Contribution | Teachings Opposed | Challenges |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Early 20th Century | Karl Barth | Led a theological movement away from liberal theology towards a Christocentric approach based on Scripture. | Liberal theology, Human-centeredness | Navigating the aftermath of WWI, challenging prevailing theological norms |
| Early to Mid 20th Century | Dietrich Bonhoeffer | Emphasized living out one's faith actively in the world, opposed the Nazi regime, contributing to Christian ethics and community life. | Nazism, The "German Christians" movement | Nazi oppression, imprisonment, and execution |
| Mid 20th Century | Billy Graham | Prominent evangelist who popularized mass evangelism through crusades, emphasizing a personal relationship with Christ. | Secularism, Moral relativism | Logistical challenges of mass evangelism, criticism from both liberals and conservatives |
| Mid to Late 20th Century | John Stott | Influential in shaping evangelical theology, promoting biblical exegesis, and Christian unity. | Liberal theology, Lack of social engagement by evangelicals | Balancing evangelical fidelity with social action |
| Early 21st Century | Timothy Keller | Founded Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, known for his intellectual approach to faith and engagement with urban contexts. | Secularism, Relativism | Navigating faith in increasingly secular urban environments. |
| Early 21st Century | N.T. Wright | Prominent New Testament scholar, contributed significantly to understanding the historical Jesus and Pauline theology. | Historical skepticism of the New Testament, Traditional views on hell and salvation | Bridging the gap between academic biblical scholarship and church teaching. |

Knowing God > The Church History > Creeds & Confessions

Below is a list of some of the most significant creeds and confessions that have found acceptance among evangelicals:

Creeds

- **Nicene Creed:** Affirms the Trinity and Christ's deity, widely respected across evangelicalism.
- **Apostles' Creed:** Early statement of Christian belief, foundational in many evangelical traditions.
- **Athanasian Creed:** Detailed articulation of the doctrines of the Trinity and the incarnation of Christ. The creed emphasizes the coequality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and affirms the dual nature of Christ as both God and man.

Confessions

- **Westminster Confession of Faith:** A cornerstone of Presbyterian and Reformed theology.
- **London Baptist Confession of 1689:** Emphasizes believers' baptism and congregational governance.
- **Belgic Confession:** Articulates Reformed beliefs, accepted by many Reformed churches globally.
- **Heidelberg Catechism:** Used for teaching Reformed Christian doctrine in a Q&A format.
- **Augsburg Confession:** Defines Lutheran doctrine, presenting core Lutheran beliefs.
- **Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (1978):** Defines evangelical beliefs on the Bible's authority and inerrancy.

Declarations and Statements

- **Lausanne Covenant (1974):** Focuses on evangelical unity, mission, and social responsibility.
- **Manhattan Declaration (2009):** Affirms the sanctity of life, the dignity of marriage, and religious freedom.
- **Nashville Statement (2017):** An evangelical declaration affirming traditional Christian teachings on marriage and human sexuality, addressing contemporary issues in sexual ethics.

Modern Evangelical Statements

- **The Cambridge Declaration (1996):** Calls for a return to foundational evangelical doctrines like Sola Scriptura.

Evangelical Global Documents

- **Cape Town Commitment (2010):** A comprehensive vision for evangelical mission, justice, and theological fidelity.

Knowing God > The Church History > Creeds & Confessions

Nicene Creed

A.D. 381

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God,
Light of Light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.
Who, for us men and for our salvation,
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life;
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe one holy catholic (meaning God's people through all times
and places) and apostolic church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Apostles' Creed

A.D. 650

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
which was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried:
he descended into hell;
*(meaning He continued in the state of the dead, and under the power
of death till the third day.)*
the third day he arose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholick church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Knowing God > The Church History > Creeds & Confessions

Athanasian Creed ca. A.D. 800

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith; which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the catholic faith is this:

Concerning the Trinity

That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;
neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance.

For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit.

But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit.

The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Spirit uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal.

And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal.

As also there are not three uncreated nor three incomprehensibles, but one uncreated and one incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet they are not three almighties, but one almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God; and yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord; and yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every person by himself to be God and Lord; so are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, "There are three Gods or three Lords".

The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

Knowing God > The Church History > Creeds & Confessions

Athanasian Creed Cont..

And in this Trinity none is afore, or after another; none is greater, or less than another.

But the whole three persons are co-eternal, and co-equal.

So that in all things, as aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

Concerning the Incarnation

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe rightly the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man.

God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of the substance of his mother, born in the world.

Perfect God and perfect man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.

Equal to the Father as touching his Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching his manhood.

Who, although he is God and man, yet he is not two, but one Christ.

One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking of the manhood into God.

One altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ;

who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell,

rose again the third day from the dead; he ascended into heaven,

he sits on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty;

from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies;

and shall give account of their own works.

And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting,

and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.

This is the catholic faith, which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

Knowing God > The Church History > False Teachings

With regard to Bible, if any teaching is not wholistically brought out or is misinterpreted without proper hermeneutics, it is a false teaching.

| Category | Description | Concerns for Evangelicals | Ways to find out |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Non-Trinitarian Sects | Groups that reject the doctrine of the Trinity, a core aspect of mainstream Christian theology. | Seen as a fundamental theological error, distorting the nature of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. | Groups' statements of faith, sermons and material that rejects the Trinity or the Triune nature of God. |
| Prosperity Gospel | Teaches that faith, positive speech, and donations to ministries will lead to personal wealth and health. | Considered a misinterpretation of the Gospel, focusing on material wealth over spiritual truths. | sermons and material that promotes blessings of wealth and health. |
| New Movements | A broad and diverse coalition of beliefs often incorporating aspects of spirituality outside traditional Christian doctrine. | Often involves pantheism or panentheism, contradicting the monotheistic and personal nature of God in Christianity. | You could find them on the internet. You could easily make out from their teachings and practices. |
| Eastern Mysticism | Incorporates beliefs or practices from Eastern religions, which may conflict with evangelical doctrines. | May involve practices or beliefs considered to be idolatry or syncretism with non-Christian religions. | You could find them on the internet. You could easily make out from their teachings and practices. |
| Cults of Personality | Groups often built around a single, charismatic leader who demands loyalty and may alter core doctrines. | Can lead to abusive behaviors, manipulation, and significant deviations from biblical teachings. | You could find them on the internet. You could easily make out from their teachings and practices. |

Knowing God > The Church History > False Teachers – I

| Category | Description | Concerns for Evangelicals |
|--|--|--|
| Gnostic and Esoteric Groups | Claim secret knowledge or insight is necessary for salvation, beyond what is revealed in Scripture. | Viewed as adding to Scripture or undermining the clarity and sufficiency of the Bible for salvation. |
| Legalistic Movements | Emphasize adherence to a set of rules or laws as the primary means of achieving salvation. | Considered to undermine the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith alone. |
| Liberal Theology | May deny supernatural aspects of the Bible, including miracles, the divinity of Jesus, and resurrection. | Seen as undermining the authority of Scripture and key Christian doctrines about Christ and salvation. |
| Universal Reconciliation | The belief that all will eventually be saved, denying eternal damnation. | Contradicts traditional evangelical understandings of salvation and judgment. |
| Syncretism | Blending Christian beliefs with other religious practices and beliefs. | Can lead to doctrinal confusion and dilute the distinctives of Christian faith. |
| Hyper-Charismatic Practices | Emphasize certain spiritual gifts as necessary signs of salvation or spiritual maturity. | May lead to spiritual elitism, false teachings about the Holy Spirit, and undervaluing of Scripture. |
| Exclusive / Isolationist Groups | Teach that they are the only true church and often isolate members from wider society. | Can foster unhealthy control over members, discourage critical thinking, and distort biblical teachings on the church and salvation. |

You could find them on the internet.

You could easily make out from their teachings and practices.

Knowing God > The Church History > False Teachers – I

We ought to be very cautious with False Teachers for they go against the Way of God and lead us in a dangerous path.

We ought to guard ourselves and help others from following them.

In order to do that we need to be strongly grounded in the Truth (Doctrines, Systematic Theology, Hermeneutics, the wholistic & deep understanding of the Bible) with the help of the Holy Spirit so that we could know the False Teachers around us.

Just one Characteristic is enough to be cautious with them!

| Characteristic | Description | Verses |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Deny Christ's Authority or Divinity | Reject or undermine Jesus Christ's Authority or Divinity. | 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 2:22-23 |
| Promote False Doctrines | Teach ideas that contradict core Christian beliefs. | 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 2 Peter 2:1 |
| Greedy and Exploitative | Use their position for personal gain, often exploiting others financially. | 2 Peter 2:3; Titus 1:11 |
| Morally Compromised | Lead lives in clear violation of biblical ethics and morality. | Jude 1:4; 2 Peter 2:2, 14 |
| Cause Divisions | Foster divisions within the church or between believers. | Romans 16:17-18; Titus 3:10 |
| Reject Authority | Disregard established church leadership or biblical authority. | Jude 1:8; 2 Peter 2:10 |
| Secretive or Deceptive | Use deception or conceal true intentions; may claim secret knowledge. | 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Peter 2:1 |
| Preach Another Gospel | Present a message that deviates from the gospel of Jesus Christ. | Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Corinthians 11:4 |
| Oppose Sound Doctrine | Resist or reject sound, biblical teaching in favor of their own ideas. | 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Titus 1:9 |
| Lack Genuine Fruit of the Spirit | Their lives do not exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, indicating a lack of genuine faith. | Galatians 5:22-23; Matthew 7:16-20 |
| Engage in Idolatry | Promote the worship of other gods or idols, or elevate material wealth or status as idols. | 1 Corinthians 10:14; Galatians 5:20 |
| Practice Sexual Immorality | Justify or engage in sexual behaviors that are explicitly condemned in Scripture. | 1 Corinthians 5:1-2; Jude 1:7 |

Knowing God > The Church History > False Teachers – II

| Characteristic | Description | Supporting Bible Verses |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Manipulate with False Visions or Prophecies | Claim to have received divine visions or prophecies that do not align with God's Word. | Jeremiah 23:16; Ezekiel 13:9 |
| Teach Human Traditions as Doctrines | Elevate human traditions or teachings to the level of divine commandments. | Mark 7:7-8; Colossians 2:8 |
| Focus on Disputable Matters | Overemphasize non-essential doctrines or practices, leading to division and strife. | Romans 14:1; Titus 3:9 |
| Deny the Resurrection | Specifically deny the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, foundational to Christian faith. | 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 |
| Promote Fear or Control | Use fear, guilt, or manipulation to control followers, rather than leading through love and truth. | 1 Peter 5:2-3; 2 Timothy 1:7 |
| Lack Accountability | Operate without submission to any form of church authority or accountability. | Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28-30 |
| Manipulate with False Visions or Prophecies | Claim to have received divine visions or prophecies that do not align with God's Word. | Jeremiah 23:16; Ezekiel 13:9 |
| Teach Human Traditions as Doctrines | Elevate human traditions or teachings to the level of divine commandments. | Mark 7:7-8; Colossians 2:8 |
| Focus on Disputable Matters | Overemphasize non-essential doctrines or practices, leading to division and strife. | Romans 14:1; Titus 3:9 |
| Deny the Resurrection | Specifically deny the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, foundational to Christian faith. | 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 |
| Promote Fear or Control | Use fear, guilt, or manipulation to control followers, rather than leading through love and truth. | 1 Peter 5:2-3; 2 Timothy 1:7 |
| Lack Accountability | Operate without submission to any form of church authority or accountability. | Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28-30 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God

The Local Church

| Category | Description | Verses |
|--|---|---|
| Nature of the Church | The church is the body of Christ, consisting of all believers worldwide. It's both universal and local, organized into communities. | 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:25-27 |
| Purpose of the Church | To glorify God, make disciples, spread the gospel, and serve as a community of worship, fellowship, and mission. | Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 2:9 |
| Functions of the Church | Truth: To defend the Gospel against false teachings by equipping believers with Sound Doctrine and Structured Teaching. Worship: To honor God with worship, praise and thanksgiving. Evangelism: To spread the gospel locally and globally. Discipleship: To grow in faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Fellowship: To build community among believers. Ministry (Service): To meet the needs of the church and community. | Jude 1:3, Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:11-13 |
| Leadership Structure | Leadership has plurality of pastoring elders, ruling elders, and deacons, serving the church through preaching, teaching, governance, and care. | 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9 |
| Sacraments Ordinances | Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion) as outward signs of faith and reminders of the gospel. Practices may vary among church denominations. | Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 |
| Role of Believers | Believers are called to live out their faith in worship, service, evangelism, and fellowship. They are to use their spiritual gifts for the edification of the church and to participate actively in its life and mission. | Romans 12:4-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11 |
| Church Governance | Governance can range from congregational to elder-led or episcopal structures, depending on the denomination. The New Testament emphasizes mutual submission and the priesthood of all believers. | Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5 |
| Mission and Outreach | The church is mission-oriented, tasked with spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and deed, locally and globally. | Acts 1:8; Matthew 9:37-38 |
| Community and Social Responsibility | The church engages in social justice, mercy ministries, and community support, reflecting God's love and justice in society. | Micah 6:8; James 1:27 |
| Spiritual Discipline | Encourages individual and corporate practices like prayer, Bible study, fasting, to foster spiritual growth and holiness. | 2 Timothy 2:15; James 5:16 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > The Local Church > Spiritual Gifts

Each of us have been give one or more gifts already. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

| Spiritual Gift | Key Verses | Ways to Identify | How to Use |
|---|--|--|---|
| Prophecy: The ability to speak God's Word into situations, encourage and strengthen the believers. | Acts 15:32, Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10 | Messages that align with Scripture. | Share messages in a way that edifies, encourages, and comforts the church body. |
| Teaching: The capability to understand and explain God's truth clearly. | Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11 | An aptitude for studying and explaining the Bible, and the ability to help others learn and apply biblical truths. | Lead Bible studies, teach Sunday school classes, and provide biblical education. |
| Healing: The power to cure illness and restore health through prayer in Jesus' name. | 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28 | Instances where prayer leads to physical or emotional healing that surpasses natural expectations. | Pray for the sick during church services, visitation ministries, or healing services. |
| Miracles: The ability to perform signs and wonders that manifest God's power. | 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28 | Experiencing or witnessing extraordinary interventions that confirm God's presence and power. | Use discernment to seek God's will and guidance, acting in faith to serve others and glorify God. |
| Wisdom: The insight to offer practical, godly advice in various situations. | 1 Corinthians 12:8; James 1:5 | Providing solutions that align with Scripture and bring about godly outcomes, often recognized by others. | Counsel individuals, participate in decision-making processes, and resolve conflicts within the church. |
| Knowledge: Deep understanding of spiritual truths with an emphasis on application in life. | 1 Corinthians 12:8 | An inherent or developed understanding of biblical truths that is insightful and applicable to life situations. | Teach, write, or advise others using biblical insights to guide and enlighten. |
| Faith: Exceptional trust in God, often accompanying great works in His name. | 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11 | Marked by a strong, unwavering belief in God's promises, even in difficult circumstances. | Encourage faith in others, lead bold initiatives for the church, and pray confidently for needs. |
| Helps/Service: The desire and ability to serve and support others in practical ways. | Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28 | Finding joy and fulfillment in assisting others and meeting needs within the church. | Volunteer for various ministries, assist in tasks behind the scenes, and support church operations. |
| Administration: The skill to organize, direct, and implement plans to facilitate the ministry of the church. | 1 Corinthians 12:28 | Ability to manage projects, people, and resources effectively in a ministry context. | Manage church events, lead ministry teams, and oversee church logistics. |
| Encouragement: Offering comfort, encouragement, and hope to others. | Romans 12:8 | Often complimented on the ability to uplift others and provide timely and appropriate encouragement. | Counsel, mentor, or simply be present for those in need of support, offering biblical hope. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > The Local Church

Spiritual Gifts – II

| Spiritual Gift | Key Verses | Ways to Identify | How to Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| Evangelism: The special ability to share the gospel with non-believers in a way that they come to accept Jesus as their Savior. | Ephesians 4:11; Acts 8:26-40 | Recognizing opportunities to share the gospel and seeing fruit from those interactions. | Engage in personal witnessing, participate in outreach ministries, and train others in evangelism. |
| Hospitality: The gift of welcoming and hosting others with warmth and generosity, often in one's home, making them feel loved and accepted. | 1 Peter 4:9-10; Romans 12:13 | Finding joy in hosting gatherings and making others feel cared for and included. | Host church groups or gatherings, welcome new church visitors, and support church events. |
| Discernment: The ability to perceive whether a message or messenger is truly from God or is in fact, deceptive. | 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1 | Sensing when something is spiritually amiss and having insight into spiritual realities. | Advise church leadership, help in counseling, and participate in teaching or doctrinal committees. |
| Giving: The joy and ability to give generously to meet the needs of others and support the work of the church, beyond the expected or normal. | Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 | Being motivated to give generously and finding creative ways to provide support. | Support financial needs within the church and community, fund missions or ministry projects. |
| Mercy: The capacity to feel empathy and compassion for those in distress, coupled with an urge to help alleviate their suffering. | Romans 12:8; Luke 10:30-37 | A natural inclination to comfort and aid those who are suffering or in need. | Engage in visitation ministries, support the sick and bereaved, and volunteer with compassion-focused outreaches. |
| Apostleship: The call and ability to start new churches and Christian ministries, often in pioneering contexts. | Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28 | Starting new ministry initiatives and having a burden for reaching new areas or people groups. | Plant new churches, establish ministries in unreached areas, and mentor future leaders. |
| Craftsmanship: The skill to craft items or provide technical skills that can be used to support the church's ministry. | Exodus 31:3-5; 1 Kings 7:14 | Having abilities that can be used in ministry contexts. | Contribute to projects, assist in aspects of ministry to enhance the ministry. |
| Tongues, & Interpretation: The ability to speak in languages not learned by the speaker, considered a sign for unbelievers and a means of edifying oneself and, with interpretation, the church. | 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4, 13, 22, 27-28 | This gift may manifest spontaneously, often during prayer or worship. The speaker may feel an uncontrollable urge to vocalize in an unknown language. | In public worship, use only if interpretation is provided, to build up the church. In private, as a means of prayer and personal edification. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > The Local Church Concerns

| Concern & How to Address | Key Verses |
|---|---|
| Single Pastor Without Elders: Encourage the establishment of a plurality of leadership that includes elders to share the pastoral responsibilities, provide accountability, and ensure the church is well cared for. | Titus 1:5-9; Acts 14:23; 1 Peter 5:1-2 |
| Lack of Discipleship: Implement structured discipleship programs, small groups, and mentoring relationships to foster spiritual growth and maturity among members. | Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2 |
| Spiritual Apathy Among Members: Revitalize spiritual growth, worship services, preach engaging and convicting sermons, and create opportunities for active service and ministry engagement. | Revelation 2:4-5; Romans 12:11 |
| Neglect of Evangelism: Organize evangelism training sessions, encourage personal witnessing, and initiate community outreach programs to rekindle the passion for evangelism. | Matthew 9:37-38; Acts 1:8 |
| Financial Mismanagement: Establish transparent financial policies, conduct regular audits, and form a finance committee to oversee church finances. | 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Acts 4:34-35 |
| Failure to Address Social Issues: Preach and teach on the biblical perspective of social justice, encourage involvement in community service, and partner with organizations addressing social issues. | Micah 6:8; James 1:27 |
| Cultural Relevance vs. Biblical Fidelity: Balance cultural engagement with steadfast commitment to biblical truths. Use contemporary methods to communicate the timeless message of the gospel without compromising doctrine. | 1 Corinthians 9:22-23; Jude 1:3 |
| Disunity Within the Church: Address conflicts promptly through biblical conflict resolution, preach on unity and love, and facilitate reconciliation and peace-making efforts. | Ephesians 4:2-3; Matthew 18:15-17 |
| Inadequate Prayer Focus: Prioritize prayer in church life, organize regular prayer meetings, and encourage personal prayer disciplines among members. | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Acts 2:42 |
| Restriction on the Usage of Spiritual Gifts: Educate the congregation about the biblical basis and importance of spiritual gifts. Implement processes for identifying, developing, and deploying spiritual gifts within the church. Create opportunities for members to exercise their gifts in various ministries, ensuring that the exercise of gifts is orderly and edifying. | 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 14:12, 26, 40 |
| Indiscipline in the Church: Begin with private correction. If unheeded, involve one or two more. If the individual still refuses to listen, tell it to the church. As a last resort, exclude the unrepentant person from fellowship so that they would get right. | Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God

The Church At Large

The Universal Church includes all believers in Jesus Christ from all times and places, transcending national, ethnic, and denominational boundaries.

| Category | Benefit | Description |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Spiritual Growth | Worldwide Perspective | Fellowshipping and Engaging with believers from various backgrounds and different churches can deepen understanding and appreciation of biblical truths, encouraging growth in faith and a more comprehensive view of God's work worldwide. |
| Encouragement and Support | Fellowship and Support | The universal church provides a vast network of support, prayer, and encouragement during life's challenges, reinforcing the believer's faith journey through shared experiences and mutual aid. |
| Worship and Devotion | Varied Worship Experiences | Exposure to different styles of worship and devotion enriches one's spiritual life, offering new ways to connect with God and appreciate the diversity within the body of Christ. |
| Mission and Service | Collaborative Outreach Opportunities | Working alongside believers from different denominations in missions and service projects can amplify the impact on communities, fostering unity in purpose and demonstrating the love of Christ through collective action. |
| Theological Understanding | Broader Theological Insight | Interaction with a range of doctrinal teachings and practices broadens one's theological understanding and appreciation for the depth and breadth of Christian tradition, leading to a more robust and nuanced faith. |
| Unity in Diversity | Unity Amidst Diversity | Participating in the universal church cultivates a sense of belonging to something greater than one's local congregation or denomination, emphasizing unity in Christ despite differences, as encouraged in Scripture. |
| Global Perspective | Awareness of Global Christianity | Connections with believers worldwide enhance awareness of the global Church's challenges and triumphs, fostering a sense of solidarity and shared mission in spreading the Gospel and addressing global issues from a Christian standpoint. |
| Prayer and Intercession | Strengthened by the Prayers of Many | Being part of the universal church means having a vast community of prayer warriors supporting one another, leading to a strengthened faith and often, answered prayers in remarkable ways. |
| Resource Sharing | Access to a Wealth of Resources | The universal church offers access to a wide range of spiritual, educational, and material resources that can aid personal growth, ministry efforts, and community service, shared freely among believers. |
| Discipleship and Mentoring | Cross-Denominational Discipleship Opportunities | Learning from and being mentored by believers from various traditions can offer unique insights into living a life of faith, providing diverse models of discipleship and spiritual maturity. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > The Church At Large

| Category | Contribution | Description |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Spiritual Gifts | Utilize Spiritual Gifts | Every believer is endowed with spiritual gifts meant to build up the Church. Identifying and using these gifts in various capacities—within and beyond one’s local congregation—strengthens the universal church. |
| Prayer and Intercession | Pray for the Universal Church | Prayer is crucial for the health and growth of the church. Praying for believers worldwide, church leaders, missions, and persecuted Christians supports the church spiritually and invokes God’s guidance and protection. |
| Financial Support | Support Ministries and Missions | Contributing financially to Christian ministries, missions, and aid organizations helps further the work of the gospel globally, assisting in evangelism, discipleship, and relief efforts. |
| Unity and Reconciliation | Promote Unity and Reconciliation | Working towards unity among believers, resolving conflicts, and fostering reconciliation within the Christian community reflect Jesus’ prayer for His followers to be one, showcasing the gospel's power to overcome divisions. |
| Mission and Evangelism | Participate in and Support Evangelistic Efforts | Engaging in mission work, whether locally or internationally, and supporting evangelistic efforts extend the reach of the gospel message and contribute to the church's growth and vibrancy. |
| Education and Discipleship | Teach and Mentor Others | Offering one’s time and knowledge to teach and mentor others in the faith, both within and across denominational lines, aids in the spiritual growth and maturation of the church body. |
| Service and Hospitality | Serve and Show Hospitality | Demonstrating love through acts of service and hospitality, especially to those in need within the church community, embodies Christ’s command to love our neighbors and care for the least among us. |
| Worship and Fellowship | Enrich Worship and Fellowship | Contributing to worship experiences and Christian fellowship, through music, art, or other creative expressions, enriches the communal worship of God and strengthens bonds among believers. |
| Advocacy and Social Justice | Advocate for Justice and Peace | Being a voice for justice, peace, and reconciliation in societal issues reflects God’s kingdom values and promotes a witness to the transformative power of the gospel in addressing the world’s brokenness. |
| Resource Sharing | Share Resources and Knowledge | Sharing educational, spiritual, and material resources with other parts of the body of Christ enables the church to grow in knowledge, faith, and practical application of Christian principles and to carry out good deeds for God’s glory. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God

Personal

Apostle Paul says, **“It is no longer I who live but Christ in me.”**

God’s desire is that we become like Christ more and more each day.
As a saved sinner, we no longer focus on ourselves but on Christ
and lead this life entirely for Him and for His glory.

That’s why we always focus on Christ
and ensure that the objective Truth of God is understood well.
Only that way, we could fully rely on the Holy Spirit
to empower us to live like Christ Himself.

**Neglecting the Word of God and focusing on mere rules
to please God wouldn’t serve the purpose at all.
It is God’s desire that we are fully filled with His Word,
that is to fully understand Him, His Ways, His Desires, His Purposes
and that we obey Him with the help of the Holy Spirit to please Him.**

**Transformation takes place when
we are filled with God’s Word and align ourselves to Him.
God-centric lives make our lives what they ought to be.
Self-centric lives miss out important things of God
and make our lives ineffective and grieve Him.**

**To ensure that our Fellowship with God is as per His Desire,
we give utmost importance to His Word.
That’s why we focus on learning the Doctrine, The Theology,
Church History, His Design for our faith journey
and His Purpose for our lives.**

**With adoration for who He is, what He did in the past, how He works,
and with thankfulness for what God has done in our lives,
we conform to His Son’s likeness
and joyfully serve Him
with the strength that He provides
through His Holy Spirit who indwells us.**

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal Purpose & Goals – Part I

As Children of God, what are we to do here?

**To live for the One who died for us, not for ourselves. [2. Co. 5:15]
As we live for Him, His Word is our life's sole authority and direction.
We want to know more about God our life's sole authority and direction.
We want to know more about God
and please Him in every detail of our life.**

To conform to the likeness of Jesus [Rom 8:29]

To be thankful to God

That we might die to sin and live to righteousness [1 Pe. 2: 24]

To do God's Will = To understand God's Word & to Obey it
[Mark 3:35 = Luke 8:21]

To understand God's Word as it is

To do everything for His glory

To understand the Apostle's Teaching – the Doctrines

To worship God in Truth and in the Spirit

To pray without ceasing

To understand the Church History [Eph. 4:11 & 12]

To be Sanctified day by day

To Please God on His terms that are laid out in His Word

To fully love God (love = obey)

To deeply love our fellow beings in accordance with God's Word

To be Holy & Blameless

To walk according to the Renewing of Mind

To build & edify other believers and to get edified by other believers

Continued ..

www.johnmangam.com/life

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Purpose & Goals – Part II

To seek things above

To be Good Stewards

To be God-centric not Self-centric

To do everything in reference and reverence to God

To guard the Doctrine & to defend the Gospel

To share the Gospel and to be a Disciple Maker

To carry out Good Works

To be part of the Church

To use our Spiritual Gifts

To be Faithful Stewards

To be Good Servants

To destroy Strongholds and engage in Spiritual Warfare

To suffer for God

To take care of the Family, Relatives & Friends

To walk humbly and to uphold Justice

To take care of Widows, Orphans, and Needy

To be responsible Citizens

To be Focused

To be Wise

To be prepared to meet Jesus

Of course, all with the help of the Holy Spirit for the Glory of God.

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Spiritual Growth

| Category | Guidelines | Cautions | Verses |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Prayer | Dedicate specific times daily for prayer to develop a consistent prayer life. | Avoid repetitive, insincere prayers that lack personal engagement. | Matthew 6:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 |
| Bible Study | Regularly read and study the Bible to understand God's Word deeply. | Do not merely read the Word; apply it in daily life to avoid being a hearer only. | James 1:22; 2 Timothy 2:15 |
| Fellowship | Engage with a community of believers to encourage and be encouraged. | Be cautious of groups that do not align with sound biblical doctrine. | Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 John 4:1 |
| Worship | Participate actively in corporate and individual worship. | Guard against empty rituals or merely going through the motions without heartfelt worship. | John 4:24; Psalm 95:6-7 |
| Obedience | Follow God's commands and seek to live a life pleasing to Him. | Beware of legalism, which focuses on rule-following over genuine relationship with God. | 1 Samuel 15:22; Galatians 5:1 |
| Service | Use your gifts to serve others in and outside of the church. | Avoid burnout by balancing service with personal spiritual nourishment. | 1 Peter 4:10; Matthew 20:28 |
| Discipleship | Mentor others in their faith or seek out a mentor for yourself. | Ensure that discipleship is rooted in Scripture and not personal opinions. | Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2 |
| Confession | Regularly confess sins to God and seek accountability when needed. | Avoid the trap of confessing without genuine repentance or change. Learn to be accountable to a team so that they wouldn't exploit. | 1 John 1:9; James 5:16 |
| Spiritual Disciplines | Practice disciplines such as fasting, meditation, and solitude to foster spiritual depth. | Do not practice disciplines as an end in themselves; focus on their purpose to connect more deeply with God. | Matthew 6:16-18; Psalm 1:2 |
| Yielding to the Holy Spirit | Fully lean on the power and strength of the Holy Spirit for everything. | Do not lean on your strength and quench the Spirit through disobedience. | Ezekiel 36:26-27; Galatians 5:25; 1 Thessalonians 5:19 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Bible Study

Now that we understood the significance of the Bible, Doctrine, Theology and the lessons from the Church History from the previous chapters of this book, it is good to be rightly filled with God's Word.

**We understand that Bible is primarily the revelation of God.
It is not a mere rule book for our lives. It is not about us primarily.
We ought to Know God, His Ways, His Deeds,
His Design, His Will, and
His Providence of His Holy Spirit to transform us to be Christ-like.**

**Only then we would be humbly transformed by God to be like Christ.
If not, we would try to be good on our own
in the limited way we understand goodness
and have faulty attitudes all over.**

**We are not be verse / passage driven but Bible driven believers.
We don't make our moves based on a single verse / passage
but we make our moves
based on the collective truths of the Bible.
We would act on the accumulated collective truth.**

**We can place the immediate lesson
from the verse or passage in the right place of
our daily categorized collective learnings.**

OBJECTIVE TRUTH FIRST AND SUBJECTIVE LESSONS NEXT.

**If we focus too much only on our lives, we grossly miss out on God and His word.
Concentrating on personal lives alone can lead us to neglect or overlook God and
the teachings of the Bible on a host of other aspects.**

When we study a book or a chapter or a portion, we need to place it in its context.
This can be done when we are aware of
the greater story or the metanarrative of the Bible.

We interpret the Bible using Literary or Grammatical Historical approach.

In our Bible study, we learn about God's Characteristics,
His Ways, His Deeds, His Desires, His Design, His Will
and it transforms us
to be like His Son Jesus Christ bringing glory to God in everything.

The more we know God the more we can get equipped and be able to please Him.

www.johnmangam.com/life

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal Worship & Praise God

Part 1: Divine Attributes and Relational Attributes of God

| Category | Aspects | Explanation |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Divine Attributes | Holiness | God's absolute purity and separation from sin; His moral perfection. |
| | Omnipotence | God's all-powerful nature, able to do anything that aligns with His character and divine will. |
| | Omniscience | God's all-knowing attribute, fully understanding past, present, and future, including thoughts and actions. |
| | Omnipresence | God's presence everywhere at all times, sustaining and overseeing the universe. |
| | Immutability | God's unchanging nature, providing stability and certainty in His promises and character. |
| | Sovereignty | God's supreme power and authority over creation, history, and the eternal destiny of souls. |
| | Transcendence | God's nature of being above and independent from the universe He created. |
| | Eternality | God's attribute of existing eternally, without beginning or end. |
| | Self-Existence | God's quality of existing in and of Himself, not dependent on anything else for His existence. |
| Relational Attributes | Love | God's unconditional love, particularly shown through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for humanity's salvation. |
| | Grace | God's unmerited favor towards sinners, offering forgiveness and salvation freely through faith in Christ. |
| | Mercy | God's compassion and kindness in not treating us as our sins deserve. |
| | Faithfulness | God's reliability in keeping His promises, showing consistent loyalty to His covenant people. |
| | Justice | God's attribute of being just and fair, ensuring justice is served and sin is rightly punished. |
| | Righteousness | God's inherent perfection and moral purity, which forms the basis for all His actions and judgments. |
| | Patience | God's long-suffering nature, which delays deserved judgment to provide an opportunity for repentance. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal Worship & Praise God

Part 2: Sovereign Acts and Eschatological Roles of God

| Category | Aspects of God | Explanation |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Sovereign Acts | Creator | God as the originator of all things, crafting the universe and every living being with purpose and intricacy. |
| | Sustainer | God's ongoing role in maintaining the existence and order of the creation. |
| | Redeemer | God's act of redeeming sinners from the bondage of sin and death through Jesus Christ. |
| | Judge | God's role in judging the world with righteousness and justice, holding all accountable to His holy standards. |
| | Provider | God's continual provision for the needs of His creation, demonstrating His care and attention to all life. |
| | Protector | God's role in safeguarding His people, showcasing His commitment to their well-being and spiritual security. |
| Eschatological Roles | King of Kings | God's ultimate authority over all rulers and nations, asserting His kingdom's supremacy. |
| | Returning Savior | The awaited return of Jesus Christ, who will restore all things and reign eternally with those who are His. |
| | Judge of All | In His final eschatological role, God will execute judgment on the living and the dead, finalizing His divine justice. |
| | Restorer of Creation | God's future act of restoring all creation to its original intended glory, eliminating sin and death permanently. |
| | Establisher of New Heaven and New Earth | God's final act to create a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells and God lives among His people. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Thanksgiving

Spiritual Blessings

| Category | Reasons to Be Thankful |
|--------------------------|---|
| Salvation | For the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, ensuring eternal life and a personal relationship with God. |
| Grace and Mercy | For God's endless grace that covers daily failings and His mercy that brings new opportunities each day. |
| Holy Spirit | For the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who empowers, counsels, and leads believers in truth and righteousness. |
| Scripture | For the Bible as a divine revelation that offers guidance, wisdom, and comfort, and as a steadfast foundation of faith. |
| Prayer | For the ability to communicate directly with God, presenting requests and receiving peace and guidance. |
| Fellowship | For the church community that provides spiritual support, accountability, and belonging among believers. |
| Spiritual Gifts | For the unique gifts given to each believer to build up the church, serve others, and glorify God effectively. |
| Freedom in Worship | For the liberty to worship God openly and to practice faith without fear of persecution or repression. |
| Growth and Maturity | For life's trials and challenges that God uses to strengthen faith, build character, and deepen reliance on Him. |
| Eternal Promises | For the assurance of heaven and eternal life, providing hope beyond this life's hardships and mortal limits. |
| Intercession of Christ | For Jesus Christ's ongoing intercession on behalf of believers, assuring us that we are always represented before God. |
| Revelation of God's Will | For the clarity and revelation of God's will through His Word and the Holy Spirit, guiding daily decisions. |
| Protection from Evil | For God's protection against spiritual warfare and the shielding from evil influences and attacks. |
| Restoration | For God's work in restoring broken lives and relationships through His transformative power and love. |
| Hope in Difficulties | For the hope provided in Scripture and through the Holy Spirit during times of despair, grief, or uncertainty. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal Thanksgiving Spiritual Blessings

| Category | Reasons to Be Thankful |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Access to God's Throne | For the privilege to approach God's throne boldly in prayer, knowing that He listens and responds to His children. |
| Unity in Christ | For the unity experienced with believers worldwide, transcending cultural and denominational barriers. |
| Spiritual Insight | For the spiritual understanding and insights granted through studying the Scripture and experiencing God's presence. |
| Miraculous Interventions | For the miraculous interventions in personal lives and communities, showcasing God's power and loving-kindness. |
| Assurance of God's Love | For the constant and unchangeable love of God that assures believers of their worth and His commitment to them. |

Material and Earthly Blessings

| Category | Reasons to Be Thankful |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Health and Strength | For physical health that enables daily activities, work, and service; for mental health which fosters well-being and effective decision-making. |
| Provision | For daily needs such as food, clothing, and shelter; for financial stability that allows generosity and freedom from excessive worry about material needs. |
| Family and Friends | For the support, love, and joy that family and friends provide; for the guidance, encouragement, and accountability offered by these relationships. |
| Employment | For the opportunity to work and earn a living; for careers that provide a sense of purpose and opportunities to impact others positively. |
| Education | For access to educational resources that enhance knowledge and skills; for the ability to pursue personal interests and professional advancement. |
| Safety and Security | For a safe living environment; for national stability and public services that protect and maintain order. |
| Technology and Resources | For advancements in technology that improve quality of life; for access to information and the ability to connect with others globally. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Thanksgiving – II

Material and Earthly Blessings

| Category | Reasons to Be Thankful |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Natural World | For the beauty and diversity of the natural world which provides recreation and sustenance; for the awe-inspiring experiences that nature offers. |
| Cultural Richness | For exposure to a variety of cultures which enrich understanding and appreciation of humanity; for the arts and traditions that foster creativity and community. |
| Freedom | For civil liberties that allow for personal and collective expression; for religious freedom that permits open worship and spiritual expression. |
| Infrastructure | For accessible transportation, reliable utilities, and effective communication systems that facilitate everyday convenience and efficiency. |
| Community Services | For community resources like healthcare, education, and emergency services that enhance quality of life and provide support in times of need. |
| Recreational Opportunities | For access to leisure activities that promote relaxation and enjoyment; for parks, sports facilities, and cultural centers that enhance community life. |
| Environmental Care | For efforts that preserve and protect the environment, ensuring a healthy planet for future generations. |
| Global Connectivity | For the ability to connect and collaborate with people across the world, promoting understanding and shared human experiences. |
| Philanthropic Opportunities | For the ability to contribute to societal improvement through volunteering and donations, impacting lives beyond one's immediate community. |
| Legal Protections | For laws and regulations that protect rights and provide frameworks for resolving disputes justly and fairly. |
| Economic Stability | For economic systems that provide opportunities for growth and the means to recover from financial setbacks. |
| Civic Engagement | For the opportunity to participate in democratic processes and influence societal directions through voting and civic participation. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Thanksgiving –III

Personal and Emotional Blessings

| Category | Reasons to Be Thankful |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Personal Growth | For experiences that shape character and wisdom; for challenges that foster resilience and perseverance. |
| Emotional Healing | For recovery from past traumas and emotional wounds; for the ability to forgive and find peace. |
| Creative and Artistic Gifts | For talents in art, music, writing, and other creative fields that enrich personal expression and cultural appreciation. |
| Life Milestones | For significant events such as births, graduations, new jobs, and retirements that mark progress and celebration in life's journey. |
| Everyday Joys | For simple daily pleasures like a good meal, a laugh with friends, or a beautiful sunset that provide comfort and happiness. |
| Wisdom and Guidance | For insights gained from life's experiences and the wisdom shared by others that guide decisions and relationships. |
| Challenges Overcome | For the strength to navigate and overcome obstacles, enhancing personal fortitude and faith. |
| Humor and Laughter | For moments of light-heartedness and joy that bring relief from stress and bond relationships. |
| Unexpected Blessings | For surprises that bring joy and change in life, reminding us of life's unpredictability and excitement. |
| Community Support | For the support received from social groups, church communities, and colleagues during tough times. |
| Resilience | For the inner strength to rebound from setbacks and continue pursuing goals and dreams. |
| Self-awareness | For the ability to reflect, understand oneself better, and grow in self-knowledge and authenticity. |
| Empathy | For the capacity to connect with others' feelings and experiences, enhancing relationships and compassion. |
| Patience | For the development of patience through waiting and enduring, contributing to personal peace and better interactions. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Thanksgiving

Personal and Emotional Blessings

| Category | Reasons to Be Thankful |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Courage | For the bravery shown in facing fears, taking new risks, or standing up for beliefs and values. |
| Forgiveness | For the ability to release grudges and bitterness, leading to personal freedom and improved relationships. |
| Adaptability | For the skill to adjust to changes and challenges, keeping life in perspective and moving forward. |
| Mindfulness | For the practice of being present in the moment, which enhances enjoyment of life and reduces stress. |
| Generosity | For opportunities to give to others, which enriches the giver's life and spreads kindness and charity. |
| Spiritual Reflection | For moments spent in meditation or prayer that provide spiritual insights and deeper connections with God. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Prayer

Part 1: Aspects of Evangelical Prayer – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving

| Category | Aspect | Explanation | Bible Verses |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Adoration | Praising God's Nature | Focusing on God's attributes, such as His holiness, love, and sovereignty. | Psalm 145:3; Revelation 4:11 |
| | Worship for God's Works | Praising God for His acts of creation, providence, and redemption. | Psalm 66:1-5; Psalm 111:2-4 |
| Confession | Acknowledging Sin | Honestly confessing sins and seeking forgiveness, which restores fellowship with God. | 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5 |
| | Repentance | A heartfelt turning away from sin and moving towards God's will and way. | Acts 3:19; Luke 13:3 |
| Thanksgiving | Gratitude for Blessings | Expressing gratitude for God's blessings, provisions, and work in our lives. | 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:6 |
| | Thanking God for Salvation | Thankfulness specifically for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. | Ephesians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 9:15 |
| | Appreciation for God's Presence | Expressing gratitude for God's constant presence and guidance in life. | Psalm 16:11; Exodus 33:14 |

While praying we could be too burdened only to pray for our needs or the needs of others. Nevertheless, we are taught in the Bible to pray on various aspects hence, our prayers ought to be Biblical to be truly effective.

We could in fact learn from the prayers of Jesus and Apostle Paul to learn to pray for the things that matter the most to God and pray in accordance to His Will.

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Prayer – II

Part 2: Aspects of Evangelical Prayer – Supplication, Spiritual Warfare, Communion

| Category | Aspect | Explanation | Verses |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Supplication | Intercession | Praying on behalf of others, asking for God's intervention in specific needs. | 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 5:16 |
| | Petition | Requesting God's provision, guidance, and presence in personal life circumstances. | Matthew 7:11; Philippians 4:6 |
| | Prayers for Healing | Asking for physical, emotional, or spiritual healing for oneself or others. | James 5:14-15; 3 John 1:2 |
| | Prayers for Provision | Seeking God's provision for daily needs or specific situations. | Matthew 6:11; Philippians 4:19 |
| Spiritual Warfare | Protection and Deliverance | Asking for protection against spiritual attacks and deliverance from evil influences. | Ephesians 6:12-18; Matthew 6:13 |
| | Binding and Loosing | Praying for spiritual authority over demonic influences and setting captives free in Jesus' name. | Matthew 16:19; Matthew 18:18 |
| Communion | Seeking God's Presence | Prayers aimed at deepening the relationship with God, seeking His presence and aligning with His will. | Psalms 42:1-2; Matthew 26:41 |
| | Listening | Being still in God's presence to receive guidance, comfort, or correction through the Holy Spirit. | John 10:27; Isaiah 30:21 |
| | Submission | Acknowledging God's sovereignty and submitting to His plans, trusting in His perfect will. | Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:42 |
| | Doxology | Ending prayers with praise that affirms God's eternal reign and sovereignty, celebrating His glory. | Jude 1:24-25; Romans 11:36 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Prayer – III

Part 3: Aspects of Evangelical Prayer – Evangelistic, Church Growth, and Community

| Category | Aspect | Explanation | Bible Verses |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Evangelistic | Salvation of Others | Praying for the salvation of friends, family, communities, and nations, that they come to know Christ. | Romans 10:1; 1 Timothy 2:3-4 |
| | Missionary Work | Seeking God’s blessing and protection on missionaries and evangelists spreading the gospel worldwide. | Matthew 9:38; Acts 13:3 |
| Church Growth | Spiritual Growth | Praying for the spiritual development and maturation of the church body and individual believers. | Ephesians 3:16-19; Colossians 1:9-12 |
| | Leadership Guidance | Asking for wisdom, protection, and integrity for pastors, elders, and church leaders. | 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Hebrews 13:17 |
| | Unity and Harmony | Seeking God’s intervention to foster unity and harmony within the church community. | John 17:21; Ephesians 4:3 |
| Community Concerns | Justice and Peace | Praying for societal justice, peace, and healing in local and global contexts. | Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:9 |
| | Healing and Restoration | Seeking God’s healing hand over communities affected by disaster, conflict, or sickness. | Psalms 60:2; Jeremiah 17:14 |
| | Government and Leaders | Asking God to guide political and social leaders to make wise, compassionate decisions. | 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Romans 13:1 |

For our prayers to be Biblical and to be truly effective,
we learn that they are to be drawn from the model prayers of Jesus.
And from the Apostle Paul’s prayers and from others in the Bible.

Praying for the things that matter the most to God
helps us pray in accordance to His Will.

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Fruit of the Spirit

| Fruit | Points | Verses | Practical Actions |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Love | Reflect on your ability to love unconditionally and sacrificially, even in challenging relationships. | 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 | Show love through understanding, patience, and forgiveness towards others. |
| Joy | Assess your consistency in maintaining joy in various circumstances, focusing on inner happiness. | James 1:2-3 | Cultivate joy by practicing gratitude daily and focusing on the positive aspects of life. |
| Peace | Evaluate your role as a peacemaker and your effectiveness in sustaining inner calm amidst chaos. | Matthew 5:9; Philippians 4:7 | Actively work to resolve conflicts and maintain a state of peace within yourself and in your relationships. |
| Patience | Consider your ability to endure difficult situations with a positive attitude without becoming upset. | Colossians 3:12 | Exercise patience in daily interactions and in long-term goals, understanding that good things take time. |
| Kindness | Reflect on how often you engage in acts of kindness and consider the impact of your actions on others. | Ephesians 4:32 | Make a concerted effort to be kind in your words and deeds, intentionally helping others whenever possible. |
| Goodness | Evaluate your actions to ensure they align with moral and ethical standards. | Romans 12:9 | Practice integrity in all actions, ensuring that your behaviors reflect your values. |
| Faithfulness | Assess your reliability and trustworthiness in your personal and professional commitments. | Proverbs 3:3-4 | Demonstrate faithfulness by being consistent and dependable in your relationships and responsibilities. |
| Gentleness | Consider how you approach others with sensitivity, especially in conflict or correction. | Titus 3:2 | Respond to others with gentleness, especially when offering criticism or guidance. |
| Self-Control | Reflect on your ability to control impulses and maintain discipline in various aspects of life. | Galatians 5:23; 2 Peter 1:5-6 | Practice restraint in emotional reactions and in situations involving temptation. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Christ-likeness

Personal Spiritual Development

| Category | Checklist Points | Bible Verses |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Devotional Life | Engaging in daily prayer and scripture reading. | Psalms 119:105; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 |
| | Participating in weekly corporate worship and fellowship. | Hebrews 10:25 |
| Character Development | Exhibiting love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. | Galatians 5:22-23 |
| | Demonstrating humility and servanthood in all interactions. | Philippians 2:3-8 |
| Personal Holiness | Maintaining purity in thoughts, words, and actions. | 1 Peter 1:15-16 |
| | Engaging in regular self-examination and accountability. | James 5:16 |

Relational and Communal Engagement

| Category | Checklist Points | Bible Verses |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Family and Relationships | Nurturing and honoring family relationships. | Ephesians 5:21-6:4 |
| | Maintaining healthy and edifying friendships. | Proverbs 27:17 |
| Community Involvement | Contributing to church life beyond regular attendance. | 1 Corinthians 12:27 |
| | Participating in community service reflecting Jesus' compassion. | Matthew 25:34-40 |
| Evangelism and Discipleship | Sharing the Gospel and personal testimony effectively. | Matthew 28:19-20 |
| | Mentoring and discipling other believers. | 2 Timothy 2:2 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Christ-likeness

Personal Spiritual Development

| Category | Checklist Points | Bible Verses |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Devotional Life | Engaging in daily prayer and scripture reading. | Psalms 119:105; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 |
| | Participating in weekly corporate worship and fellowship. | Hebrews 10:25 |
| Character Development | Exhibiting love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. | Galatians 5:22-23 |
| | Demonstrating humility and servanthood in all interactions. | Philippians 2:3-8 |
| Personal Holiness | Maintaining purity in thoughts, words, and actions. | 1 Peter 1:15-16 |
| | Engaging in regular self-examination and accountability. | James 5:16 |

Relational and Communal Engagement

| Category | Checklist Points | Bible Verses |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Family and Relationships | Nurturing and honoring family relationships. | Ephesians 5:21-6:4 |
| | Maintaining healthy and edifying friendships. | Proverbs 27:17 |
| Community Involvement | Contributing to church life beyond regular attendance. | 1 Corinthians 12:27 |
| | Participating in community service reflecting Jesus' compassion. | Matthew 25:34-40 |
| Evangelism and Discipleship | Sharing the Gospel and personal testimony effectively. | Matthew 28:19-20 |
| | Mentoring and discipling other believers. | 2 Timothy 2:2 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Christ-likeness – II

Global Awareness and Responsibility

| Category | Checklist Points | Bible Verses |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Mission Awareness | Supporting global missions through prayer and giving. | Acts 1:8; 3 John 1:5-8 |
| | Staying informed about and participating in missions activities. | Acts 1:8 |
| Ethical Living | Advocating for justice and ethical standards in society. | Micah 6:8; Proverbs 31:8-9 |
| | Practicing environmental stewardship and ethical consumption. | Genesis 2:15 |
| Responsibility | Care for your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. | 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 |
| | Work diligently as if working for the Lord, not for human masters. | Colossians 3:23-24 |
| | Conduct business dealings with honesty and integrity. | Proverbs 11:1; Leviticus 19:35-36 |
| | Use financial resources wisely and generously. | 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:24 |
| | Practice and promote sustainability and care for creation. | Genesis 2:15; Romans 8:21 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Introspection

Part 1: Attitudes

| Category | What to Do | What Not to Do | Bible Verses | Reflection Points |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Humility | Cultivate humility in all your interactions. | Avoid pride and arrogance. | Philippians 2:3; James 4:6 | Reflect on whether you consider others better than yourself and act accordingly. |
| Love | Show unconditional love and patience to everyone. | Do not be hateful or hold prejudices against others. | John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13 | Assess how well you love others, especially those who are difficult to love. |
| Forgiveness | Forgive others as God in Christ forgave you. | Do not harbor resentment or seek revenge. | Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 6:14-15 | Consider if there are any grudges you are holding onto that need to be released. |
| Faith and Trust | Exhibit strong faith and trust in God's goodness and provision. | Avoid doubting God's plans or relying solely on your own strength. | Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 11:6 | Evaluate the depth of your trust in God during trials and uncertainties. |
| Patience and Endurance | Practice patience and endurance in all circumstances. | Do not become easily frustrated or give up. | Romans 12:12; James 1:3-4 | Reflect on your reaction to delays or hardships—are you patient? |
| Joyfulness | Maintain a joyful heart, rooted in your relationship with God. | Avoid cynicism and chronic discontent. | Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 | Consider what influences your joy and how you express it daily. |
| Peacefulness | Seek to be a peacemaker and live in harmony with others. | Avoid creating or escalating conflicts. | Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18 | Assess your role in conflicts—are you promoting peace or contributing to discord? |
| Contentment | Find contentment in God's provision, regardless of circumstances. | Do not covet what others have or live in a constant state of wanting. | Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11-13 | Reflect on your level of contentment and areas where you may feel dissatisfied. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Introspection – II

Part 1: Attitudes

| Category | What to Do | What Not to Do | Verses | Reflection Points |
|--------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Compassion | Actively show compassion and care for others' needs. | Do not ignore or be indifferent to the suffering of others. | Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 3:8 | Consider how you respond to seeing others in distress—do you offer help and empathy? |
| Thankfulness | Regularly express gratitude to God and others. | Avoid ingratitude and a complaining attitude. | 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Colossians 3:15 | Assess how often you express thankfulness in your daily life. |
| Reverence for God | Live with a constant awareness of God's holiness and greatness. | Do not treat God's name or character lightly. | Psalms 111:9; Hebrews 12:28-29 | Reflect on your daily practices—do they demonstrate a deep respect for God? |
| Courage | Demonstrate courage in standing up for your faith and values. | Avoid being cowardly or shrinking back from truth. | Joshua 1:9; Acts 4:29-31 | Evaluate moments when you need to stand firm in your faith—do you rise to the occasion? |
| Envy | Celebrate others' successes and blessings. | Do not envy others or resent their achievements. | Galatians 5:26; James 3:14-16 | Reflect on feelings of envy when observing others' good fortune—are you content with what you have? |
| Selfishness | Prioritize the needs and well-being of others. | Avoid putting your interests above others unjustly. | Philippians 2:3-4 | Assess if your decisions are guided by self-interest or by a desire to serve others. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Introspection – III

Part 2: Words

| Category | What to Do | What Not to Do | Verses | Reflection Points |
|-----------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Truthfulness | Always speak the truth in love, aiming for honesty and integrity in all communications. | Avoid lying, exaggerating, or deceiving others under any circumstances. | Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 3:9 | Reflect on the accuracy and honesty of your words—are they trustworthy and sincere? |
| Encouragement | Use your words to encourage, comfort, and edify others, providing support and positivity. | Do not discourage, belittle, or speak negatively in a way that tears others down. | 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13 | Assess how your words affect others—are they uplifting and supportive? |
| Graciousness | Ensure your speech is gracious and seasoned with kindness, reflecting the love of Christ. | Avoid harsh, rude, or unkind words that can hurt or offend others. | Colossians 4:6; Proverbs 16:24 | Evaluate the tone and content of your speech—are they gentle and respectful? |
| Wisdom | Speak with wisdom, offering thoughtful and considered responses. | Do not speak impulsively or without consideration of the consequences. | James 1:5; Proverbs 15:2 | Consider if your words are thought out and if they bring clarity and understanding. |
| Gospel Sharing | Share the Gospel and your testimony openly when opportunities arise. | Do not miss or avoid opportunities to witness because of fear or discomfort. | Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 3:15 | Reflect on your readiness and willingness to share your faith—are you proactive? |
| Rebuking | Offer correction and rebuke when necessary, always aiming for restoration and growth. | Avoid unnecessary criticism or rebuking in anger or frustration. | 2 Timothy 4:2; Galatians 6:1 | Assess the spirit in which you rebuke—is it loving and aimed at helping others grow? |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Introspection – IV

Part 2: Words

| Category | What to Do | What Not to Do | Bible Verses | Reflection Points |
|------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Peacemaking | Use words to promote peace and resolve conflicts, aiming for reconciliation. | Do not instigate or escalate conflicts through your speech. | Matthew 5:9; James 3:18 | Evaluate if your words help in calming disputes or if they fuel disagreements. |
| Thankfulness | Regularly express gratitude and acknowledge the contributions of others. | Avoid taking credit for communal efforts or overlooking the good in others. | Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:20 | Reflect on how often you express gratitude in both personal and public settings. |
| Avoiding Gossip | Refrain from gossiping or sharing unverified information about others. | Do not engage in spreading rumors or participating in slander. | Proverbs 20:19; James 1:26 | Consider if your discussions about others are necessary and constructive. |

Part 3: Deeds

| Category | What to Do | What Not to Do | Bible Verses | Reflection Points |
|------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| Service | Serve others willingly and selflessly, seeking to mirror Christ's servitude. | Do not seek personal gain or recognition from your service. | Galatians 5:13; Mark 10:45 | Are your actions motivated by genuine love and a desire to serve, or by personal gain? |
| Obedience | Follow Christ's teachings and commands faithfully in all areas of your life. | Do not disregard or selectively obey Scripture based on convenience. | John 14:21; James 1:22 | Assess whether your lifestyle aligns with biblical commands consistently. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Introspection – V

Part 3: Deeds

| Category | What to Do | What Not to Do | Bible Verses | Reflection Points |
|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Moral Integrity | Uphold Christian moral standards in all areas of life, ensuring your actions reflect your faith. | Avoid behaviors that compromise biblical values or damage your testimony. | 1 Peter 1:16; Titus 2:7-8 | Reflect on whether your private and public actions are consistent and honorable. |
| Evangelism | Actively share the Gospel and live out your faith openly, being ready to make a defense to anyone who asks. | Do not hide your faith or miss opportunities to witness because of fear or apathy. | Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15 | Consider how effectively you are communicating your faith to others. |
| Financial Stewardship | Use financial resources wisely, giving generously to support church and charitable activities. | Avoid mismanaging finances or failing to support the church and the needy. | Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7 | Reflect on your giving—are you contributing joyfully and responsibly? |
| Social Justice | Advocate for and actively participate in addressing injustices, ensuring fair treatment for all. | Do not ignore social issues or maintain indifference towards injustice. | Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:17 | Assess your involvement in social issues—are you part of the solution? |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Introspection – VI

Part 3: Deeds

| Category | What to Do | What Not to Do | Bible Verses | Reflection Points |
|------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Workplace Ethics | Exhibit professionalism and Christian ethics in your workplace, being a testament to your faith. | Do not participate in unethical practices or behaviors that reflect poorly on your faith. | Colossians 3:23-24; Ephesians 6:5-8 | Reflect on your workplace ethics—are they consistent with your Christian beliefs? |
| Health and Well-being | Maintain and promote a healthy lifestyle, recognizing your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. | Do not neglect your physical health or engage in harmful habits. | 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 3 John 1:2 | Consider if you are taking adequate care of your physical health. |
| Environmental Care | Actively engage in practices that protect and improve the environment. | Avoid actions that contribute to environmental degradation. | Genesis 2:15; Romans 8:21 | Evaluate how your daily habits impact the environment—are you a responsible steward? |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Temptations

The Help of the Holy Spirit is always available to all of us for all temptations.
If we rely on Him, we can certainly overcome.

When we give in to temptations, we don't loose our salvation but we would have to
face severe consequences on this earth.

Of course, when we ask for forgiveness, God truly forgives us.
He lovingly disciplines and He also grants us grace to bear its consequences.

Nevertheless, bearing the consequences of Sin can be terrible.
The loss, or the hurt, or the outcome of Sin
can be quite terrible and unpredictable
so that we would never want to deliberately sin again.

After all, God wants us to be Holy and Blameless,
that's why He helps us get away from sins by His discipline.

Lastly, we ought to remember that the Holy Spirit indwells us
and is ready to help us certainly overcome any kind of temptation victoriously.

Areas of Temptations for Believers

| Category | Specific Temptations | Bible Verses | Prevention Tips |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Neglect of God's Word | Failing to read, study, or apply the Scriptures in daily life. | Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 | Commit to regular Bible reading and study, join Bible study groups, apply biblical principles in daily decisions. |
| Sexual Immorality | Fornication, adultery, lustful thoughts. | 1 Corinthians 6:18; Matthew 5:28 | Set clear boundaries, avoid compromising situations, maintain purity in thoughts and actions. |
| Dishonesty | Lying, deceit, hypocrisy, exaggeration. | Ephesians 4:25; 1 Peter 2:1 | Commit to truthfulness in all communications, value integrity over convenience. |
| Greed and Materialism | Covetousness, theft, financial dishonesty, excessive material focus. | Hebrews 13:5; Luke 12:15 | Practice contentment, prioritize spiritual wealth, engage in regular giving and stewardship. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Temptations – II

Areas of Temptations for Believers

| Category | Specific Temptations | Bible Verses | Prevention Tips |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Anger and Bitterness | Uncontrolled anger, resentment, hostility towards others. | Ephesians 4:31; James 1:19-20 | Develop patience, engage in conflict resolution, seek counseling if necessary. |
| Envy and Jealousy | Envy of others' success, possessions, or status. | Galatians 5:26; James 3:14-16 | Cultivate contentment and gratitude, celebrate others' achievements, focus on personal growth. |
| Pride | Arrogance, self-righteousness, lack of humility. | James 4:6; Proverbs 16:18 | Practice humility, serve others, recognize dependence on God for all things. |
| Sloth and Neglect | Laziness in responsibilities, neglect of spiritual disciplines. | Hebrews 6:12; Romans 12:11 | Maintain discipline in daily routines, set spiritual and personal goals, stay active in community. |
| Idolatry | Putting anything above God, worship of idols or concepts. | 1 John 5:21; Colossians 3:5 | Keep God at the center of life, avoid idolizing people or possessions, regularly evaluate priorities. |
| Gluttony | Overindulgence in food or drink, lack of self-control. | Proverbs 23:20-21; 1 Corinthians 9:27 | Practice moderation, focus on healthy living, and set limits on consumption. |
| Divisiveness | Causing divisions within the church or community. | Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10 | Promote unity, avoid gossip and contentious behaviors, focus on reconciliation. |
| Fear and Worry | Excessive anxiety, lack of trust in God's plan. | Matthew 6:34; Philippians 4:6 | Cultivate trust in God, engage in prayer, practice mindfulness and stress-relief techniques. |
| Technology Misuse | Overuse of digital devices, exposure to harmful content. | Psalms 101:3; 1 Corinthians 6:12 | Set limits on screen time, use digital media for positive purposes, engage in face-to-face interactions. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Temptations – III Areas of Temptations for Believers

| Category | Specific Temptations | Bible Verses | Prevention Tips |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Time Wastage | Spending excessive time on unproductive activities. | Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5 | Prioritize tasks, set goals, use time management tools, and keep a disciplined schedule. |
| Pleasure Seeking | Overindulgence in entertainment or leisure that leads to spiritual neglect. | Titus 3:3; 2 Timothy 3:4 | Balance leisure with responsibilities, set limits on entertainment, engage in fulfilling spiritual activities. |
| Negligence in Work | Focusing on trivial tasks at the expense of significant ones. | Luke 10:40-42; Proverbs 14:23 | Focus on priorities, learn to distinguish between urgent and important tasks, seek God's guidance in daily planning. |
| Workaholism | Overworking to the extent that it affects spiritual life and relationships. | Exodus 20:8-11; Psalm 127:2 | Ensure regular Sabbath rests, maintain a healthy work-life balance, delegate tasks when necessary. |
| Escapism | Avoiding reality or responsibilities through fantasy, excessive gaming, or media consumption. | 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 12:1 | Confront issues directly, seek support from community or professional help, develop healthy coping strategies. |
| Indifference to Needs | Ignoring the needs of others or the community due to complacency or self-centeredness. | 1 John 3:17; Proverbs 28:27 | Stay informed about the needs of others, get involved in service opportunities, practice empathy and generosity. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Temptations – IV

Areas of Temptations for Believers

| Category | Specific Temptations | Verses | Prevention Tips |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Cynicism | Growing overly skeptical or negative about people's motives and the church. | Hebrews 12:15; Matthew 7:1 | Cultivate a hopeful outlook, practice giving the benefit of the doubt, stay engaged in positive community activities. |
| Spiritual Complacency | Becoming content with one's spiritual state to the point of not pursuing growth. | Revelation 2:4-5; Hebrews 6:1 | Set spiritual growth goals, seek new learning opportunities, maintain regular spiritual disciplines. |
| Legalism | Emphasizing adherence to rules over the spirit of the gospel. | Galatians 5:1; Matthew 23:23-24 | Focus on the heart of Christ's teachings, promote grace over judgment, engage in open and loving discussions about faith practices. |
| Despair | Losing hope or feeling that God's promises won't manifest. | Psalms 42:5; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 | Remind yourself of God's past faithfulness, stay connected with supportive believers, engage in uplifting spiritual practices. |
| Isolation | Withdrawing from fellowship and community, especially during difficult times. | Hebrews 10:24-25; Galatians 6:2 | Make a conscious effort to stay connected, seek out community support, be proactive in attending church gatherings. |
| Fanaticism | Adopting extreme views or behaviors that lead to harmful actions or alienating others. | 2 Timothy 2:23-26; Titus 3:9 | Seek balance in views, focus on love and unity, avoid contentious debates that lead to division. |
| Impulsiveness | Making hasty decisions without prayerful consideration or seeking wise counsel. | Proverbs 19:2; James 1:5 | Practice patience, seek God's guidance through prayer, consult with wise and experienced believers before making decisions. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Temptations – V

Areas of Temptations for Believers

| Category | Temptations | Verses | Prevention Tips |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Relational Idolatry | Putting human relationships (e.g., romantic, familial) above relationship with God. | Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26 | Regularly evaluate your priorities, ensure God remains your top priority, set boundaries in relationships that honor God. |
| Cultural Compromise | Adapting one's faith practices and beliefs to align with secular or non-Christian cultural norms. | Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15 | Stay rooted in biblical teachings, critically assess cultural trends against Scripture, engage in counter-cultural Christian practices. |
| Enabling Sin | Supporting or covering up others' sinful behaviors rather than confronting them in love. | Leviticus 19:17; Ephesians 4:25 | Be truthful and loving in confrontations, avoid being complicit in others' sins, offer support for change and repentance. |

**The Help of the Holy Spirit is always available to all of us for all temptations.
If we rely on Him, we can certainly overcome.**

**When we give in to temptations, we don't lose our salvation but we would have to
face severe consequences on this earth.**

**Of course, when we ask for forgiveness, God truly forgives us.
He lovingly disciplines and He also grants us grace to bear its consequences.**

**Nevertheless, bearing the consequences of Sin can be terrible.
The loss, or the hurt, or the outcome of Sin
can be quite terrible and unpredictable
so that we would never want to deliberately sin again.**

**After all, God wants us to be Holy and Blameless,
that's why He helps us get away from sins by His discipline.**

**Lastly, we ought to remember that the Holy Spirit indwells us
and is ready to help us certainly overcome any kind of temptation victoriously.**

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Temptations – VI Types

Part 1: Spiritual and Ethical Temptations

| Category | Sub-Category | Temptations | Description |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Spiritual Faith | Doubt and Unbelief | Questioning God's existence, goodness, or the truth of Scripture. | Temptations that lead to questioning foundational Christian beliefs and doctrines. |
| | Legalism vs. Liberty | Balancing Christian freedom with obedience without falling into legalistic practices. | Misinterpreting Biblical freedom as a license for behavior that contradicts scriptural teachings. |
| Doctrinal Integrity | False Teachings | Accepting heretical or distorted doctrines. | Engaging with teachings that sound plausible but contradict orthodox Christian doctrine. |
| | Prosperity Gospel | Believing that faith always results in financial blessing or physical health. | A temptation to equate God's favor with material success and well-being. |
| Ethical Living | Moral Compromise | Justifying unethical behavior for personal or professional gain. | Rationalizing dishonesty, theft, or deceit because of situational pressures or for advancement. |
| | Corruption | Engaging in corrupt practices to achieve desired outcomes. | Participating in bribery, manipulation, or other corrupt actions in workplace or social settings. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Temptations – VII Types

Part 2: Personal and Relational Temptations

| Category | Sub-Category | Temptations | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Personal Behavior | Self-Control | Struggles with anger, speech, impulses, or sexual temptations. | Temptations that involve losing control over one's actions in ways that harm oneself or others. |
| | Addictions | Substance abuse, pornography, gambling, or digital addictions. | Dependence on substances or behaviors that are harmful and alienating from God and community. |
| Relationships | Family Dynamics | Neglecting family responsibilities, or harboring unforgiveness. | Failing to care for, respect, or reconcile with family members. |
| | Friendships and Peer Pressure | Conforming to peers rather than maintaining Christian standards. | The temptation to engage in activities or adopt beliefs that contradict biblical teachings for acceptance. |
| Social Interactions | Gossip and Slander | Spreading rumors or engaging in slanderous talk about others. | The destructive habit of discussing untrue or private matters about others, damaging reputations. |
| | Conflict | Engaging in or escalating conflicts instead of pursuing peace. | Opting for confrontation and division over reconciliation and understanding in personal disputes. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Temptations – VIII Types

Part 3: Professional and Societal Temptations

| Category | Sub-Category | Temptations | Description |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Workplace Ethics | Professional Integrity | Compromising on professional standards for personal advancement. | Temptations to cheat, lie, or manipulate in professional settings for career benefits. |
| | Exploitation | Taking advantage of others' vulnerabilities for personal or organizational gain. | Using power or knowledge to exploit individuals or situations unethically. |
| Social Responsibility | Civic Engagement | Ignoring societal and community issues that require attention and action. | Temptations to remain disengaged from social, political, or environmental issues needing advocacy. |
| | Environmental Stewardship | Neglecting care for creation in pursuit of economic or personal convenience. | Overlooking environmental degradation or contributing to it through negligence or harmful practices. |
| Global Awareness | Cultural Insensitivity | Disregarding or disrespecting cultural differences in a globalized context. | Failing to appreciate and respect cultural diversity, leading to insensitive or harmful interactions. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual Weapons and Armor for Evangelicals

| Category | Spiritual Weapon/Armor | Description | Key Bible Verses |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Armor of God | Belt of Truth | Represents integrity and truthfulness; essential for spiritual stability and defense. | Ephesians 6:14 |
| | Breastplate of Righteousness | Symbolizes Christ's righteousness given to believers, protecting heart and vital organs. | Ephesians 6:14 |
| | Shoes of Peace | Preparation to spread the Gospel of peace, providing readiness and stability in spiritual battles. | Ephesians 6:15 |
| | Shield of Faith | Used to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, symbolizing trust and belief in God's promises. | Ephesians 6:16 |
| | Helmet of Salvation | Protects the mind from doubts and fears, reminding the believer of their salvation in Christ. | Ephesians 6:17 |
| | Sword of the Spirit | The Word of God, which is the only offensive weapon in the armor, vital for combating lies and deception. | Ephesians 6:17 |
| Prayer and Fasting | Prayer | Communication with God that activates and empowers the believer's spiritual armor and weapons. | Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6 |
| | Fasting | A means to draw closer to God and gain spiritual strength, often enhancing the effectiveness of prayer. | Matthew 17:21; Acts 14:23 |
| The Word of God | Scripture Memorization | Keeping God's Word in heart and mind, useful for guidance, temptation resistance, and spiritual wisdom. | Psalms 119:11; Hebrews 4:12 |
| | Scripture Declaration | Speaking biblical truths out loud, affirming God's promises and truths, effectively combating spiritual falsehoods. | Joshua 1:8; Revelation 12:11 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Spiritual Warfare – II

Spiritual Weapons and Armor for Evangelicals

| Category | Spiritual Weapon/Armor | Description | Key Bible Verses |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Holy Spirit | Gifts of the Spirit | Spiritual gifts such as discernment, wisdom, and prophecy, used to build the church and combat spiritual deceptions. | 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-12 |
| | Fruit of the Spirit | Manifestations of a believer's transformed life, essential for maintaining Christlike character during spiritual warfare. | Galatians 5:22-23 |
| Worship and Praise | Praise | Using praise as a weapon to declare God's sovereignty and might, shifting atmospheres and breaking spiritual opposition. | Acts 16:25-26; Psalm 149:6-9 |
| | Worship | Engaging in worship as a form of declaring allegiance to God and asserting trust in His power and plan. | John 4:24; Psalm 95:6 |
| Fellowship | Community Prayer | Gathering with other believers for communal prayer, increasing spiritual strength and corporate intercession. | Matthew 18:20; Acts 1:14 |
| | Accountability | Maintaining relationships that provide spiritual accountability, essential for growth and protection. | James 5:16; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 |
| Obedience and Submission | Submission to God | Submitting to God's will as a defensive strategy, allowing divine protection and guidance in spiritual battles. | James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:6 |
| | Obedience to God's Commands | Acting in obedience to God, which reinforces spiritual defenses and aligns believers with God's power. | John 14:15; 1 Samuel 15:22 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Spiritual Warfare – III

Biblical Strategies for Combat

| Aspect | Description | Biblical Strategies | Verses |
|--------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Temptation | Attacks that entice believers to sin or abandon their faith. | Prayer, fasting, and immersing oneself in Scripture. | Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Corinthians 10:13 |
| Deception | Lies or half-truths aimed at confusing or misleading believers. | Knowing and understanding the truth of God's Word. | Ephesians 6:14; 2 Corinthians 11:14 |
| Accusation | Attacks that involve condemning or reminding believers of their past sins. | Embracing the righteousness of Christ and God's forgiveness. | Revelation 12:10; Romans 8:1 |
| Doubt | Creating uncertainty about God's goodness, His promises, or one's faith. | Strengthening faith through prayer, testimony, and fellowship. | James 1:6; Ephesians 6:16 |
| Division | Efforts to sow discord and strife within families, churches, or communities. | Promoting unity through love, understanding, and peacemaking efforts. | 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3 |
| Persecution | Direct opposition or oppression based on one's faith. | Standing firm in faith, praying for strength and boldness. | 2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 5:10-12 |
| Oppression | Spiritual heaviness or attack leading to despair, fear, or other intense emotions. | Claiming the joy and peace of Christ, seeking spiritual support and counseling. | Isaiah 61:3; 1 Peter 5:7 |
| Distraction | Diversions that lead believers away from God and their spiritual focus. | Prioritizing spiritual disciplines and setting boundaries against worldly influences. | Hebrews 12:2; Luke 10:40-42 |
| Fear | Fear tactics used to immobilize or weaken faith through intimidation. | Trusting in God's power, love, and sound mind given to us. | 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18 |
| Apathy | Inducing a lack of interest or concern regarding spiritual matters or others' needs. | Reviving zeal through worship, passionate prayer, and engagement in service. | Revelation 2:4-5; Romans 12:11 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Spiritual Warfare – IV

Biblical Strategies for Combat

| Aspect of Warfare | Description | Biblical Strategies | Key Bible Verses |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Spiritual Lethargy | A state of spiritual dullness or lack of enthusiasm in pursuing God and His ways. | Engage in personal revival practices, such as intensified prayer, fasting, and participation in spirited worship. | Romans 12:11; Revelation 3:2-3 |
| Materialism | The temptation to prioritize material gain over spiritual growth. | Cultivate contentment and focus on eternal treasures through generosity and stewardship. | Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:10 |
| Isolation | Withdrawing from Christian fellowship, which weakens spiritual strength and support. | Maintain strong church connections and small group involvement to foster accountability and encouragement. | Hebrews 10:25; Galatians 6:2 |
| Despair | Overwhelming feelings of hopelessness or defeat in one's spiritual life. | Embrace the promises of hope and renewal found in Scripture; seek pastoral care and Christian counseling. | Psalms 42:11; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 |
| False Visions or Dreams | Deceptive spiritual experiences or guidance that contradict Biblical truth. | Test all spirits and prophetic utterances against the truth of Scripture and the counsel of mature believers. | 1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 |
| Legal Attacks | Legal challenges or restrictions on practicing or expressing faith. | Seek godly wisdom and legal counsel; engage in prayer for authorities and for justice. | Acts 4:18-20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2 |
| Technological Distractions | Overuse or inappropriate use of technology that leads to spiritual neglect. | Set intentional limits on technology use; prioritize time for Scripture study and face-to-face fellowship. | Colossians 3:2; Ephesians 5:15-16 |
| Cultural Conformity | Pressure to conform to secular norms and values that conflict with Biblical teachings. | Reinforce Biblical convictions and celebrate countercultural Christian identities. | Romans 12:2; John 17:14-16 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Spiritual Warfare – V

Biblical Strategies for Combat

| Aspect of Warfare | Description | Biblical Strategies | Key Bible Verses |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| False Prophets Teachers | Leaders or influencers promoting untruths or partial truths to mislead believers. | Be discerning of teachings; confirm doctrines with Scripture and consult trusted spiritual leaders. | Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2:1 |
| Unforgiveness | Holding onto bitterness and resentment, which can give a foothold to the enemy. | Practice forgiveness as a key aspect of spiritual warfare, reflecting Christ's forgiveness towards us. | Ephesians 4:31-32; Matthew 18:21-22 |
| Pride in Spiritual Achievements | Taking personal credit for spiritual successes or growth. | Remain humble, acknowledging God as the source of all spiritual strength and achievements. | 1 Corinthians 4:7; James 4:6-10 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal Responsibilities

Spiritual Responsibilities

| Category | Responsibilities | Description | Key Bible Verses |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Prayer | Daily Prayer | Engaging in regular communication with God to seek guidance, express gratitude, and intercede for others. | 1 Thessalonians 5:17 |
| Bible Study | Regular Scripture Reading and Study | Studying the Bible to understand God's Word and apply it in daily life. | 2 Timothy 2:15, Psalm 119:11 |
| Worship | Corporate and Personal Worship | Participating in and maintaining a lifestyle of worship both corporately and individually. | John 4:24, Hebrews 10:25 |
| Fasting | Engaging in Fasting | Using fasting as a spiritual discipline to enhance prayer and spiritual sensitivity. | Matthew 6:16-18, Acts 13:2 |
| Evangelism | Sharing the Gospel | Actively sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others, both in word and deed. | Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8 |
| Discipleship | Mentoring and Discipling Others | Guiding and nurturing others in their faith journey to grow in Christ-likeness. | Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Timothy 2:2 |
| Spiritual Gifts | Utilizing Spiritual Gifts | Employing gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the church and outreach. | 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Romans 12:6-8 |
| Stewardship | Managing God's Resources | Wisely using the resources God has provided, including spiritual gifts, time, and opportunities. | Matthew 25:14-30, 1 Peter 4:10 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Responsibilities

Part 2: Personal Responsibilities

| Category | Responsibilities | Description | Key Bible Verses |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Personal Holiness | Living a Holy Life | Reflecting Christ's holiness in personal conduct, thoughts, and actions. | 1 Peter 1:15-16, Ephesians 5:1-2 |
| Health and Well-being | Maintaining Physical and Mental Health | Caring for one's body and mind as temples of the Holy Spirit. | 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 3 John 1:2 |
| Moral Integrity | Upholding Integrity | Demonstrating honesty, fairness, and ethical behavior in all aspects of life. | Proverbs 10:9, Ephesians 4:25 |
| Family Care | Nurturing Family Relationships | Prioritizing and caring for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of family members. | Ephesians 5:21-6:4, 1 Timothy 5:8 |
| Work Ethic | Demonstrating a Strong Work Ethic | Working diligently as unto the Lord in professional and personal endeavors. | Colossians 3:23-24, 2 Thessalonians 3:10 |
| Financial Stewardship | Managing Finances Wisely | Using financial resources responsibly and generously to support family, church, and charitable causes. | Luke 16:11, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 |
| Rest and Recreation | Balancing Work with Adequate Rest and Leisure | Ensuring time for rest and recreational activities to maintain overall wellness and effectiveness. | Exodus 20:8-10, Mark 6:31 |
| Hygiene and Appearance | Maintaining Personal Hygiene and Presentable Appearance | Keeping oneself clean and tidy as a reflection of God's orderliness and respect for oneself and others. | 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 |
| Mental Health Care | Seeking Support and Care for Emotional and Psychological Well-being | Addressing mental health needs through community support, counseling, and medical help when necessary. | Psalms 34:17-18, Galatians 6:2 |
| Personal Development | Pursuing Continued Learning and Self-Improvement | Engaging in lifelong learning to enhance one's skills, knowledge, and spiritual understanding. | Proverbs 1:5, 2 Peter 3:18 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Responsibilities

Part 3: Relational and Community Responsibilities

| Category | Responsibilities | Description | Key Bible Verses |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Family Duties | Nurturing Family Relationships | Prioritizing and caring for family members, ensuring their spiritual and physical well-being. | Ephesians 5:22-6:4 |
| | Leading Family Devotions | Organizing and leading regular devotional times to foster spiritual growth within the family. | Deuteronomy 6:6-7 |
| Church Involvement | Active Participation | Engaging actively in church life, including services, group activities, and volunteer roles. | Hebrews 10:25 |
| | Supporting Church Leadership | Providing support and encouragement to pastors and church leaders through prayer and active involvement. | Hebrews 13:17 |
| Community Service | Local Outreach | Participating in or organizing community help programs, charity events, or social justice initiatives. | Galatians 6:10 |
| | Global Missions | Supporting or engaging in missions work to spread the Gospel internationally. | Matthew 28:19-20 |
| Social Justice | Advocating for the Oppressed | Standing up for and supporting the rights and needs of the oppressed and marginalized. | Proverbs 31:8-9 |
| | Promoting Biblical Justice | Ensuring actions and advocacies are aligned with biblical principles of justice and equity. | Micah 6:8 |
| Mentorship and Discipleship | Mentoring Younger Believers | Guiding less mature Christians in their spiritual journey and personal development. | Titus 2:3-5 |
| Hospitality | Opening Home to Others | Using one's home as a place to welcome and serve others, reflecting God's generosity and openness. | Romans 12:13 |
| Conflict Resolution | Peacemaking | Actively working to resolve conflicts within personal relationships, the church, and the community. | Matthew 5:9 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Responsibilities

Part 3: Relational and Community Responsibilities

| Category | Responsibilities | Description | Verses |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Global Engagement | Global Missions | Participating in or supporting missions work to spread the Gospel across different cultures and countries. | Matthew 28:19-20 |
| | Advocacy for Global Issues | Raising awareness and advocating for solutions to global issues like poverty, injustice, and persecution. | Proverbs 31:8-9 |
| | Intercessory Prayer | Praying for global concerns, including peace, leadership, and the spread of Christianity. | 1 Timothy 2:1-2 |
| Cultural Sensitivity | Understanding and Respect | Learning about and respecting diverse cultures to effectively communicate and minister within various contexts. | 1 Corinthians 9:22 |
| | Language Learning | Acquiring new languages as a tool to enhance ministry effectiveness in multicultural settings. | Acts 2:1-11 |
| Environmental Stewardship | Caring for Creation | Advocating for and practicing sustainable living to protect God's creation for future generations. | Genesis 2:15; Revelation 11:18 |
| Personal Development | Continued Learning | Committing to lifelong learning, both spiritually and academically, to improve personal efficacy and understanding. | Proverbs 1:5 |
| | Health and Well-being | Maintaining physical, mental, and emotional health to ensure effective ministry and personal well-being. | 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 |
| Financial Stewardship | Responsible Giving | Managing personal finances wisely and giving generously to church, missions, and charitable causes. | 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 |
| | Ethical Investments | Investing resources in ethical and morally sound ventures that align with Christian values. | Proverbs 13:11 |
| Personal Ethics | Integrity in Conduct | Upholding biblical integrity in all personal and professional dealings. | Proverbs 10:9 |
| | Accountability | Seeking and maintaining accountability relationships to foster spiritual growth and ethical living. | James 5:16 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal

Ministry

Goals, Attitudes, Words, and Deeds

| Category | Goals | Attitudes | Words | Deeds |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| General Ministry | To serve God faithfully in the church and community. | Obedience, servanthood, humility, teamwork and accountability. | Encouraging, respectful, constructive. | Active participation in church activities, outreach, and administrative tasks. |
| Spiritual Gifts | To use spiritual gifts to build up the church and reach the lost. | Willingness to serve, openness to instruction, readiness to engage. | Insightful, inspired, clear. | Identifying, developing, and deploying gifts within the church community. |
| Evangelism | To spread the Gospel effectively and make disciples. | Zeal for the Gospel, patience with non-believers, perseverance. | Persuasive, patient, respectful. | Organizing evangelistic events, follow-up with attendees, community engagement. |
| Teaching | To educate believers in biblical truth and discipleship. | Patience, wisdom, authority. | Clear, authoritative, engaging. | Conducting Bible studies, creating discipleship resources, mentoring. |
| Worship | To facilitate heartfelt worship that honors God. | Passion for worship, sensitivity to the Spirit's leading, inclusiveness. | Inspiring, scriptural, welcoming. | Planning and leading worship services, selecting music, training musicians. |
| Pastoral Care | To support the well-being of the congregation. | Compassion, confidentiality, wisdom. | Comforting, wise, empathetic. | Visiting the sick, counseling, providing spiritual and emergency support. |
| Youth Ministry | To engage and empower young people in their faith. | Approachability, enthusiasm, understanding of youth culture. | Relevant, motivational, clear. | Organizing youth groups, camps, social outings, and service projects. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Personal Ministry – II

Goals, Attitudes, Words, and Deeds

| Category | Goals | Attitudes | Words | Deeds |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Mission Work | To address spiritual and physical needs globally. | Cultural sensitivity, resilience, compassion. | Informed, respectful, encouraging. | Participating in international missions, local community development. |
| Prayer Ministry | To foster a strong culture of prayer within the church. | Devotion, faithfulness, expectancy. | Intentional, fervent, continuous. | Leading prayer meetings, organizing vigils, promoting prayer initiatives. |
| Community Service | To demonstrate Christ's love through service and justice. | Proactivity, justice-focused, community-minded. | Advocating, encouraging, educational. | Community clean-ups, advocacy, cooperative efforts with local organizations. |
| Financial Stewardship | To manage and distribute resources ethically and generously. | Integrity, generosity, prudence. | Transparent, encouraging, wise. | Budgeting, fundraising, allocating funds responsibly. |
| Administration | To enhance ministry effectiveness through organizational management. | Diligence, attention to detail, strategic thinking. | Clear, organized, instructive. | Managing church records, coordinating events, overseeing operations. |
| Interpersonal Relations | To foster healthy, Christ-like relationships within the community. | Forgiveness, empathy, love. | Kind, honest, encouraging. | Conflict resolution, fostering small groups, promoting fellowship activities. |
| Personal Development | To pursue personal and spiritual growth. | Humility, eagerness to learn, self-awareness. | Reflective, honest, growth-oriented. | Self-assessment, continuing education, spiritual retreats. |
| Health and Well-being | To maintain physical and mental health as God's steward. | Self-care, balance, respect for the body and mind. | Supportive, informative, encouraging. | Promoting health awareness, organizing health workshops, supporting mental health resources. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Family > Choosing Life-Partner

While choosing a life-partner, it is important that we first grow to a matured level of growth in Christ. Only then we will be able to properly consider God's specific will in choosing a matured believer whose **heart is after God's own heart**.

Learning the doctrines, theology, church history, the Bible, God's Will and His comprehensive design for our lives well is required to make a sound decision about marriage.

So, going through this entire book well is highly recommended before going about making any decisions on marriage.

After all, this is the crucial decision of life and we want to carry out the Specific Will of God carefully.

Note: This section needs to be read only after understanding the God's Will section well.

For the points presented here are in addition to that of those presented there.

Ensure that the partner:

- Is truly a born-again believer.
- Is able to clearly articulate the Gospel and the aspects of it.
- Has grown well in the knowledge of God.
- Demonstrates a solid understanding of Doctrines, Theology, Church History and about the Comprehensive Design of God for Christian life.
- Has a passion for God's Word.
- Naturally demonstrates the Fruit of the Spirit in various circumstances with various individuals and groups of people.
- Humbly utilizes Spiritual Gift for the glory of God.
- Is active in the ministry and a team-player in the Church, Fellowship and Ministry contexts.
- Is humble, accountable, transparent and willing to be corrected.
- Applies Biblical Principles in life doing the General Will of God.
- Has Biblical values and life goals, regarding family, career, and ministry.
- Who values biblical knowledge and demonstrates a commitment to growing in understanding and applying Scripture.
- Not a divorced person.

In addition, ensure to:

- Continue to humbly do the General Revealed Will of God in all aspects of life.
- Seek the counsel of trusted spiritual leaders and family members.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment in making Biblical decisions for the glory of God rather than depending on signs or other shortcuts.

Knowing God & Pleasing God

Family

| Topic | Summary | Verses |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Goal | Both unmarried and married individuals are loved equally by God and are to live for His glory. | 1 Corinthians 7:17; Colossians 3:17 |
| Celibacy | Celibacy is a special gift from God, intended only for those whom God has called to this life. | 1 Corinthians 7:7-8 |
| God's Design for Marriage | Marriage is instituted by God for the union of two believers and is considered holy. | Genesis 2:24; Hebrews 13:4 |
| Adoption of Children | Adopting children requires God's grace and wisdom, akin to raising naturally born children. | James 1:27; Ephesians 1:5 |
| Marriage | It is God's will for a believers to marry only a believer, fulfilling family roles for God's glory. | 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:21-33 |
| Family | A godly family practices fellowship, love, care, spiritual nurture, prayer, discipline, and forgiveness. | Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 5:25-26; 6:4 |
| Divorce | Divorce should only occur in case of sexual immorality, and marrying a divorced person isn't permitted. | Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 |
| Death | Belief in the resurrection and the second coming of Christ brings hope of reunion with deceased believers. | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 |
| Re-marriage | Widows are encouraged to remarry if they choose, but church elders should be married only once. | 1 Timothy 5:14; 1 Timothy 3:2 |
| Collective responsibility | The family serves as a beacon of God's love, exemplifying Christian virtues in the church, acting as agents of transformation in society, and offering hope and restoration in a fallen world. | Hebrews 10:24-25; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:16 |

The mutual responsibilities of spouses,
the individual responsibilities of each family member,
and the collective responsibilities of the family
are detailed in the following sections.

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Family

Mutual Responsibilities of Spouses

| Responsibility | Description | Verses |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Love and Cherish | To love one another deeply as a fundamental expression of their commitment and as Christ loves the church. | Ephesians 5:25, 28; Colossians 3:19 |
| Mutual Respect | To honor and respect each other, recognizing each other's value and dignity as created by God. | Ephesians 5:33; 1 Peter 3:7 |
| Spiritual Leadership | Both spouses are to nurture the spiritual growth of their family, leading in prayer, worship, and biblical instruction. | Ephesians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 11:3 |
| Support and Encouragement | To support each other in all of life's circumstances, offering encouragement in spiritual, emotional, and practical matters. | 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25 |
| Faithfulness and Integrity | To remain faithful to each other, maintaining moral integrity and trustworthiness in all aspects of their relationship. | Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 12:22 |
| Communication | To communicate openly and honestly, managing conflicts with grace and striving for understanding and reconciliation. | James 1:19; Ephesians 4:26 |
| Shared Responsibility | To share in the responsibilities of managing the household and raising children, if they have them, as equal partners. | Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 31:28-31 |
| Prayer Partnership | To regularly pray together, seeking God's guidance and blessing on their marriage and family. | Matthew 18:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 |
| Physical Intimacy | To express love through physical intimacy, respecting it as a gift from God within the bounds of marriage. | 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Song of Solomon 7:6-12 |
| Mutual Submission | To practice mutual submission out of reverence for Christ, considering each other's needs above their own. | Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3-4 |
| Hospitality and Service | To serve others together, extending hospitality and engaging in ministry as a couple. | 1 Peter 4:9-10; Romans 12:13 |
| Counsel and Wisdom | To offer counsel and wisdom to each other, particularly in times of decision-making or difficulty. | Proverbs 31:26; Proverbs 19:20 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Family

Responsibilities of each member

| Member | Responsibility | Description | Verses |
|--------|--|--|--|
| All | Spiritual Growth & Goal | To love God, fellow beings, grow in the knowledge of God and to live for God | Matthew 22:37-39; Colossians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:15; |
| | Being Christ-like | To practice fellowship, love, care, spiritual nurture, prayer, discipline, and forgiveness. | Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 5:25-26; 6:4 |
| | Witness to Peers | To live out Christian values and share their faith with unbelievers, serving as a witness to the gospel. | Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 5:16; 1 Timothy 4:12 |
| | Participation in Family and Church Activities | To actively engage in family chores, worship, and church activities, contributing to the family and community. | Hebrews 10:24-25; Ecclesiastes 12:1 |
| Father | Spiritual Leadership | To lead the family in spiritual matters, including prayer, worship, and biblical instruction. | Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:4-5 |
| | Provision and Protection | To provide for the family's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs and protect them from harm. | 1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 5:29 |
| | Role Model | To exemplify Christian virtues and integrity, setting a standard for behavior within the family. | 1 Corinthians 11:1; Titus 2:7 |
| Mother | Nurturing and Teaching | To care for and nurture the children, playing a key role in their education and spiritual development. | Proverbs 31:26-28; 2 Timothy 1:5 |
| | Managing the Household | To oversee the daily operations of the household, ensuring it runs smoothly and supports family growth. | Proverbs 31:27; Titus 2:4-5 |
| | Emotional Support | To provide emotional support and counsel to family members, fostering a loving and supportive environment. | 1 Thessalonians 2:7; Proverbs 31:26 |
| Child | Obedience and Respect | To obey and respect their parents and other authority figures as taught in Scripture. | Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20 |
| | Academic and Personal Growth | To pursue educational opportunities and personal development as part of honoring God with their capabilities. | Proverbs 1:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:15 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God

Communities

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

| Category | Opportunities | Purpose | Bible References |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Evangelism | Share the gospel respectfully. | To fulfill the Great Commission and offer the hope of Christ to others. | Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15 |
| Prayer | Pray for community leaders and issues. | To seek God's guidance and blessing for the community and to intercede on behalf of its needs. | 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Jeremiah 29:7 |
| Service | Volunteer in community service projects. | To demonstrate Christ's love through practical deeds and to meet the physical and emotional needs of those in the community. | Galatians 5:13; Matthew 25:35-40 |
| Advocacy | Advocate for justice and peace. | To be a voice for the marginalized and promote biblical justice in societal issues. | Micah 6:8; Proverbs 31:8-9 |
| Building Relationships | Build genuine relationships with neighbors. | To show Christ's love in personal ways and to foster trust and openness in spiritual conversations. | John 13:34-35; 1 Thessalonians 2:8 |
| Stewardship | Care for the environment locally. | To honor God by responsibly managing His creation and setting an example of stewardship. | Genesis 2:15; Psalm 24:1 |
| Community Development | Support local businesses and initiatives. | To contribute to the economic and social health of the community, reflecting a commitment to the welfare of others. | Jeremiah 29:7; Leviticus 25:35 |
| Education | Engage in or support local educational programs. | To empower individuals through knowledge and skills, which can lead to better opportunities and understanding. | Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 5:14 |
| Hospitality | Open your home for community gatherings or small groups. | To provide a welcoming space for fellowship, dialogue, and growth, reflecting the hospitality of Christ. | Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2 |
| Moral and Ethical Influence | Live out and advocate for ethical principles. | To influence the community positively by exemplifying ethical behavior and integrity. | Philippians 2:15; Titus 2:7-8 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Communities – II

| Category | Opportunities | Purpose | Bible References |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Cultural Engagement | Participate in local cultural events. | To understand and respect the cultural diversity of the community, fostering relationships and dialogue. | 1 Corinthians 9:22; Romans 12:18 |
| Interfaith Dialogue | Engage in conversations with people of other faiths. | To promote understanding and peace among different religious groups by presenting the Gospel. | Acts 17:22-23; 1 Peter 3:15 |
| Health and Wellness | Organize or support health and wellness programs. | To contribute to the physical well-being of the community, reflecting the holistic care God desires for all. | 3 John 1:2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 |
| Support for the Elderly | Visit nursing homes and provide assistance to the elderly. | To honor and care for the elderly, showing them love and respect as valued members of the community. | Leviticus 19:32; 1 Timothy 5:1-2 |
| Youth Mentorship | Mentor youth through local clubs or church programs. | To guide young people in their personal and spiritual growth, providing a positive role model. | Titus 2:6-8; Proverbs 22:6 |
| Crisis Response | Volunteer for local emergency and relief efforts. | To provide immediate and effective help during crises, demonstrating God's love in times of need. | Proverbs 3:27; Acts 11:29-30 |
| Arts and Creativity | Promote or participate in local arts. | To engage and contribute to the cultural life of the community through creativity, reflecting the creativity of God. | Exodus 35:35; Psalm 150 |
| Financial Literacy Programs | Offer or support financial planning workshops. | To help individuals and families manage their finances wisely and reduce economic stress. | Proverbs 21:5; 1 Timothy 6:17-19 |
| Disability Support | Advocate and assist in accessibility improvements. | To ensure that community spaces and services are inclusive of people with disabilities. | Luke 14:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:22-25 |
| Peacebuilding Initiatives | Participate in or initiate community peacebuilding activities. | To resolve conflicts and foster peace at the community level, embodying the call to be peacemakers. | Matthew 5:9; Romans 14:19 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Workplace

We worship God by being living sacrifices. We glorify God through our work and we work unto Him primarily. However, that shouldn't let us neglect any other God-given responsibility to any degree. If we unhealthily compete the imbalance is unavoidable. Hence, considering the comprehensive design of God, we need to choose which jobs, roles, timings and tasks that suit our calling. Hence, these sacrifices are unto God and prove our priorities by keeping us balanced.

| How to Glorify God | Verses |
|--|--|
| Integrity: Demonstrate honesty and ethical behavior in all dealings. | Proverbs 10:9 |
| Excellence: Perform work duties with excellence as serving the Lord. | Colossians 3:23-24 |
| Relationships: Build respectful and supportive relationships with colleagues and authorities with patience even in unjust situations. | 1 Peter 2:18-20, Ephesians 6:5-8, Ephesians 4:32 |
| Witness: Share faith respectfully when opportunities arise. | 1 Peter 3:15 |
| Service: Help and serve coworkers in practical ways. | Galatians 5:13 |
| Prayer: Pray for coworkers and the company's success and integrity. | 1 Timothy 2:1-2 |
| Stewardship: Manage resources and time efficiently. | Luke 16:10-11 |
| Humility: Exhibit humility and be willing to learn. | Philippians 2:3-4 |
| Evangelism: Engage in sharing the Gospel as led by the Spirit. | Matthew 28:19-20 |
| Conduct: Maintain holiness in speech and behavior, exemplifying professionalism and courtesy in all interactions. | 1 Peter 1:15-16 Ephesians 4:29; Titus 2:7-8 |
| Patience: Exhibit patience with colleagues and processes, reflecting God's patience with us. | Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 4:2 |
| Respect: Show respect to all coworkers regardless of their position or background. | 1 Peter 2:17; Romans 12:10 |
| Accountability: Be accountable for personal actions and commitments, fostering trust. | Luke 16:10-12; Proverbs 25:13 |
| Flexibility: Adapt to changing circumstances and needs within the team or company. | Philippians 4:12-13 |
| Joyfulness: Maintain a positive and joyful attitude, rooted in faith, despite challenges. | Nehemiah 8:10; Philippians 4:4 |
| Confidentiality: Respect and protect the privacy and confidentiality of workplace information. | Proverbs 11:13; Proverbs 20:19 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > Marketplace

Businesses are God-given opportunities to glorify Him
through sincere efforts
to bring about transformation in the communities
where we operate and serve.

The scope for the good work in
Environmental, Social, Economic and Spiritual areas
is vast through the businesses.

**In every minute detail of our business,
if we could consider the Will of God
and carry it out joyfully,
the kind of impact
we could make in glorifying God
will be exceedingly great.**

| Aspect | How to Glorify God | Verses |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Ethical Practices | Conduct business with honesty, fairness, and integrity, avoiding deceitful practices. | Proverbs 11:1; Ephesians 4:25 |
| Employee Relations | Treat employees with respect, provide fair wages, and ensure a safe working environment. | Colossians 4:1; James 5:4 |
| Customer Service | Serve customers with humility, prioritize their needs, and ensure their satisfaction. | Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 7:12 |
| Community Engagement | Support local communities through service projects, donations, and ethical engagement. | Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 13:16 |
| Environmental Stewardship | Care for creation by implementing sustainable practices and reducing waste. | Genesis 2:15; Psalm 24:1 |
| Sharing | Use riches to bless others as well, supporting charitable causes, and investing in mission work. | 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Acts 20:35 |
| Good Influence | Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. | 1 Peter 3:15 |
| Innovation and Excellence | Strive for excellence and innovation as a reflection of God's creativity and as an offering to Him. | Colossians 3:23-24; Proverbs 22:29 |
| Transparency and Accountability | Maintain transparency in operations and be accountable to stakeholders, reflecting God's truth. | Luke 16:10-12; Ephesians 5:8-9 |
| Global Impact | Engage in fair trade practices and ensure that global supply chains honor human dignity and rights. | Micah 6:8; Proverbs 31:8-9 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God World

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

| Category | Responsibility | Purpose | Verses |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Prayer | Pray for their salvation and well-being. | To intercede before God on their behalf, asking for opportunities for them to know Christ. Pray for leaders to administrate well. | 1 Timothy 2:1-4; 2 Peter 3:9 |
| Evangelism | Share the gospel message. | To communicate the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ. | Romans 10:14-15; 1 Peter 3:15 |
| Modeling Christlike Behavior | Live out the gospel in daily life. | To be an example of the transformative power of the gospel through personal integrity. | Philippians 2:15; Titus 2:7-8 |
| Service and Good Works | Serve them through acts of kindness and goodness. Solving their problems out of genuine love for them. | To demonstrate God's love in practical ways, opening doors for gospel conversations. | Matthew 5:16 |
| Love and Compassion | Show unconditional love and compassion. | To mirror Jesus's love, breaking down barriers and building bridges. | Luke 10:27 |
| Cultural Understanding | Understand their beliefs and perspectives. | To engage respectfully and thoughtfully, facilitating open and honest dialogue to share faith. | Acts 17:22-23 |
| Education and Discourse | Engage in respectful dialogue. | To be able to gracefully communicate the Gospel to everyone. | Colossians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15 |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > World

Evangelism

The world needs to know the Good News of God's Love shown through His Son Jesus Christ and they are to be made His disciples. John 3:16 & Matthew 28:16-20

| Aspect | Explanation | Supporting Verses |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| The Gospel Message | The core of evangelism is the message of Jesus being a person in the Godhead coming as human (Hypostatic Union of Christ's humanity and divinity), death, and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. | 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: "Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." |
| The Need to turn to Christ | Evangelism calls individuals to turn towards Jesus. | John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. |
| Faith in Christ | Essential to the message of evangelism is the call to place faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior for salvation. | Romans 10:9: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." |
| The Role of the Holy Spirit | The Holy Spirit empowers believers to share the gospel and convicts the hearts of those who hear the message. | Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." |
| The Call to Witness | Believers are called to be witnesses of Christ's life and message, sharing with others what they have experienced and know. | Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." |
| Urgency of the Message | Evangelism is driven by the understanding that the message of the gospel is urgent for all people, as it pertains to eternal destiny. | 2 Corinthians 6:2: "For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > World

Persecution

It is natural that we want to avoid persecution by all means. However, the Bible makes it clear that believers shall be persecuted. In God's sovereignty, He lets these happen to His children though He is fully capable of protecting them from all these. Of course, He lets these happen for a good reason.

God wants us to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. (Matthew 5:11 & 12)
Study Matthew 5:10-12, Matthew 24:9-13, and Hebrews 11 about the heroes of faith for encouragement. God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

| Theme | Verses | Summary |
|--|---|--|
| Expectation of Persecution | John 15:18-20; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-13 | These verses remind believers that persecution is to be expected as part of the Christian life, as the world has also persecuted Christ. |
| Encouragement in Persecution | Romans 8:35-39; Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 | These passages offer encouragement, highlighting that persecution cannot separate believers from the love of Christ and that suffering for righteousness is blessed. |
| Response to Persecution | Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:14; 1 Peter 3:16 | These verses instruct believers to love and bless their persecutors, maintaining a good conscience and behavior amidst suffering. |
| Purpose and Result of Persecution | James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5; 1 Peter 1:6-7 | These scriptures explain that trials and persecutions refine faith, produce steadfastness, and lead to spiritual growth and maturity. |
| Deliverance and Protection | 2 Timothy 4:17-18; Psalm 34:19; Daniel 3:16-17 | These passages show instances of God's deliverance and protection in persecution, affirming His presence and power to save. |
| Prayer in Persecution | Acts 4:29-30; 2 Thessalonians 3:2; Ephesians 6:18-20 | These verses emphasize the importance of prayer for boldness, protection, and the advancement of the Gospel amidst opposition. |



The Future

www.johnmangam.com/life

Knowing God & Pleasing God > World > Our Future

Rapture - The coming of Jesus to gather the elect, the believers

The concept of the rapture is available in these references:

- 1.1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV): "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."
- 2.1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NIV): "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."
3. Philippians 3:20-21 "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."
4. Matthew 24:40-41 (NIV): "Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left."

When will Jesus come to gather His elect, the believers?

Matthew 24:36 (NIV): "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

Then for those left behind, the Tribulation takes place for 7 years

The Second Coming of Jesus - to end the rule of Satan

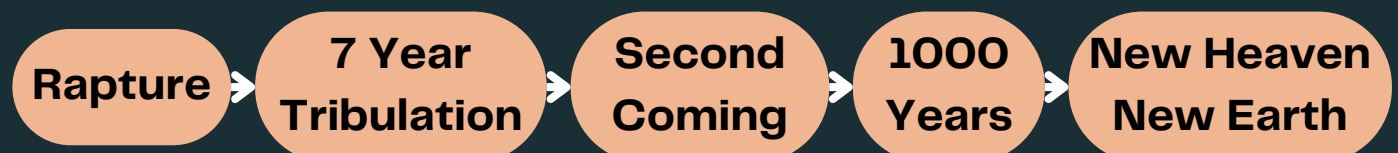
The major event that takes place in the second coming of Jesus Christ is the conclusion of the rule of Satan.

Judgments for Believers: Judgment Seat of Christ

Purpose: To reward believers for the deeds done in the body, whether good or bad, focusing on rewards rather than punishment.

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Describes how each person's work will be tested by fire to determine its quality, emphasizing rewards.



Knowing God & Pleasing God > World > Our Future

Rewards for Believers

Believers are promised rewards based on their faithfulness and service to God, which include:

1. Crowns

Crown of Life: For those who persevere under trial and remain faithful to Jesus.

James 1:12 "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

Crown of Righteousness: For those who long for Christ's appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

Crown of Glory: For faithful shepherds of God's people.

1 Peter 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

2. Inheritance in the Kingdom

Believers are co-heirs with Christ and will inherit the kingdom prepared for them.

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

Romans 8:17 "...and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."

3. Authority and Responsibility in the Kingdom

Faithful servants are rewarded with authority and responsibility in the kingdom of God.

Luke 19:17 "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'"

Judgments for Unbelievers: Great White Throne Judgment

Eternal separation from God

Purpose: To judge the unbelievers and determine their eternal destiny.

Revelation 20:11-15 Describes the final judgment of the dead, where anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

God grants us faith, hence unbelief is a choice!

www.johnmangam.com/life

Knowing God & Pleasing God > World > Our Future

Are we in the End Times?

Matthew 24:33 ..when **you see all these things**, you know that it (second coming) is near, right at the door. The passages and the books that deal with it are Matthew 24, Luke 21, Mark 13, Daniel, and Revelation. The aspects witnessed today are: Persecution, False Teaching, Warfare, Famines, Earthquakes, Anti-Christ (One World Leader), Global Travel (Daniel 12:4a), Global Knowledge (Daniel 12:4b), Global Weather (Luke 21:25-26), Global Communication (Revelation 11:9-10), Global Evangelism (Matthew 24:14), Global Pandemics (Matthew 24:7/Luke 21:11), Global Digital Money & Global Tracking (Rev. 13:16-17), Weapons of Global Destruction (Matthew 24:21-22), Global Peace, Prosperity & Materialism (1 Thes. 5:3), Global Hatred For Israel (Zechariah 12:3)

Call for a Wise Living

No generation before ours witnessed all these to together at such a degree.

Our preparation for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ needs to be thorough carrying out the Will of God (obeying the Bible) being able to prioritize the things that matter the most with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Bible emphasizes the importance of wisely using our time and being prepared for the return of Jesus Christ. Here are several verses that highlight these themes:

1. Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV): "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."
2. Matthew 24:42-44 (NIV): "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."
3. Matthew 25:13 (NIV): "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."
4. Colossians 4:5 (NIV): "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."
5. 1 Peter 1:13 (NIV): "Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming."
6. Luke 21:34-36 (NIV): "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."
7. 2 Peter 3:10-12 (NIV): "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."

From these, we understand the importance of **living a wise, holy, vigilant life with the help of the Holy Spirit, and maintaining a state of readiness for Jesus Christ's return.**

Knowing God & Pleasing God > World > Our Future

Heaven

| Category | Aspect of Heaven | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Nature | God's Dwelling Place | Revelation 21:3; John 14:2 | Heaven is the dwelling place of God, where He lives with His people and is directly accessible to them. |
| | Eternal Life | John 14:2-3; Revelation 21:4 | Heaven is portrayed as a place where eternal life is granted, free from death, sorrow, and pain. |
| Characteristics | Peace and Joy | Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 65:19 | Heaven is a place of unending peace and joy, devoid of tears, mourning, or distress. |
| | Holiness and Purity | Revelation 21:27; Revelation 22:14 | Nothing impure or sinful can enter heaven, maintaining its perfect purity and holiness. |
| | Beauty and Glory | Revelation 21:10-21 | Heaven is described with imagery of precious stones and streets of gold, emphasizing its beauty and glory. |
| Inhabitants | Angels | Luke 20:36; Hebrews 12:22-23 | Heaven is inhabited by angels who serve God and celebrate His presence. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > World > Our Future

Heaven – II

| Category | Aspect of Heaven | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| | Saints and Believers | Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 7:9 | The redeemed from every nation, who have been made righteous through Christ, dwell in heaven. |
| | Martyrs | Revelation 6:9-11 | Those who have died for their faith are given a special place in heaven, awaiting the final judgment. |
| Activities | Worship and Service | Revelation 7:15; Revelation 22:3 | Inhabitants of heaven are engaged in perpetual worship and service to God. |
| | Learning and Fellowship | 1 Corinthians 13:12; Revelation 22:4 | There will be a complete knowledge and close fellowship with God and other saints. |
| | Rest and Renewal | Hebrews 4:9-11 | Heaven provides a place of rest and renewal, a Sabbath rest for the people of God. |
| Relationship with Earth | New Jerusalem | Revelation 21:2; Revelation 21:10-27 | The New Jerusalem, a heavenly city, will descend from heaven to the new earth as God's dwelling among men. |

Knowing God & Pleasing God > World > Our Future

Heaven – III

| Category | Aspect of Heaven | Bible Verses | Explanation |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| | Restoration of Creation | Romans 8:19-21; 2 Peter 3:13 | Heaven intersects with the restoration of all creation, culminating in a new heaven and a new earth. |
| | Judgment Seat of Christ | 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15 | Believers will appear before Christ's judgment seat in heaven to receive rewards based on their earthly deeds. |
| Eschatological Connection | Millennial Reign | Revelation 20:4-6 | Describes the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven before the final judgment and the creation of a new earth. |
| | Eternal State | Revelation 21:1-22:5 | Describes the eternal state of heaven where God will dwell among His people in a fully restored and glorified new creation. |

Let's be eternally thankful to the Only True God who loves us so dearly.
Let's always lean on the Holy Spirit
to Study God's Word
and
to Carry out God's Will,
living for the glory of God.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING TO READ THIS BOOK.
WE HOPE YOU WILL FIND THE CONTENT VERY HELPFUL.

THIS SHORT BOOK ADDRESSES THE QUESTIONS LIKE:

- ♥ WAS THERE A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING AT ALL?
- ♥ WHERE DID IT GO WRONG?
- ♥ WAS THE KEY ISSUE FIXED?
- ♥ WHY IS IT NOT SO BEAUTIFUL AROUND?
- ♥ HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THIS LIFE?
- ♥ WHAT'S GOD'S DESIGN FOR THIS LIFE?
- ♥ WHERE ARE WE HEADING?
- ♥ WHAT ARE WE TO BE CAUTIOUS OF?
- ♥ IS THERE A BEAUTIFUL ENDING AT ALL?

THIS IS A FREE-TO-SHARE BOOKLET!
IF YOU FIND THIS HELPFUL, PLEASE SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.
FEEL FREE TO SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK TO
hello@johnmangam.com

John is an active member of Kutumba Subham Fellowship
and a theology student of Worldwide Evangelical Seminary.
He serves as President for Punoca Inc and as a Parish Committee
member at Noble Missionary Church, Church of South India (CSI).
He is also a Software Engineer and an Entrepreneur.

www.johnmangam.com/life