

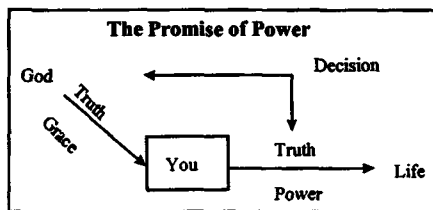
The Living Word of God

It is inspired
(It has the authority of truth)

It is reliable
(We can trust God via His word)

It is powerful
(Good works through His word)

Can receive via His word
(Choose to receive His grace)



enemy has said about us.

Important Distinctions

What has happened to us does not tell us who we are!

What has happened to us does not tell us who God is!

What has happened to us to hinder our freedom?

What has happened to us to hinder our Freedom?

We are damaged by the fall and sin
(vulnerable to error and distortion)

We are easily led into bondage
(inferiority, pride lust, fear, sin)

We are highly vulnerable to Satan
(deception, accusations, sinful pleasures)

Introduction

- A. We know from the Bible, as well as science and every-day life, the power of truth and error. The principle is very clear: to succeed we must know the truth and practice it.
- B. While the most important truth we can know is about God (Lesson #1), perhaps the second is to understand the truth about ourselves.
- C. We have all accepted wrong ideas about who we are, what we can do, and become. These errors come from many sources.

- 1. From what has happened to us and how we interpreted those events.
- 2. From how people have treated us and what they have said about us.
- 3. From what culture, the church, the world, and the enemy has said about us.
- 4. From how the enemy may have counterfeited us to ourselves—and got us to hate the caricature he/they have produced. Such work is subtle, hidden, and powerful.
- 5. From how we have accepted error and allowed it to condition and program us. This conditioning may be primarily emotional—and very powerful.
- 6. Warning: if we practice error—we will become like the error we practice!

- D. We must be willing to learn, accept and practice the Biblical description of ourselves. This process is an activity of faith. Ask the Father to teach you and deliver you.

I. God Created us Like Himself-- a PERSON.

Genesis 1:26,27;

- 26 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*
- 27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*
NIV

Lesson #3 – The People of Our Father

Who are you?

God created you

God created you in His image

God created you a person

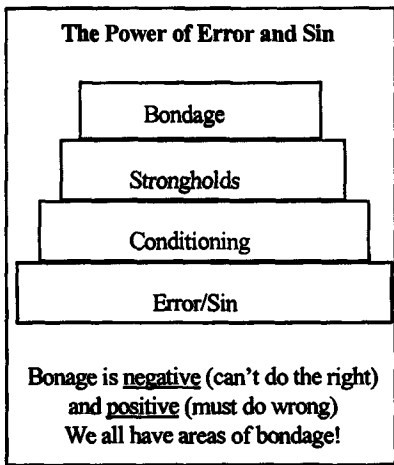
God created you a spirit(ual) person

God recreated you in the new birth

Who are you?

A person
(with many rights and abilities)

A spirit(ual) person
(with powerful ability to know God)



Sin: The practice of Error

Sin	
The Acceptance of Error	The Practise of Error

Errors hidden in our emotions
(Hopelessness, negativism, unbelief, fear)

Errors hidden in our desires
(Fulfillment/solution found in money, a person, things, sex, security, control)

A. God made us like Himself -- a PERSON of self-consciousness, self-determination, capable of spiritual, rational, emotional, volitional, and social relationships. We are a living, finite, spiritual, non-material, substantive individual being. We are important and have great value. God always addresses us as persons—never as a "thing."

B. God made us a Person with many RIGHTS. We have the right to be heard, feel, express emotions, have needs, have needs met, be cared for, develop our potential, to learn, to make choices, to be responsible, to have our own opinions, to receive help, to give help, to be loved, to give love, to be different from other people, and to enjoy life.

C. What "rights" did God give to Adam and Eve? See Gen 1-3

1. Gen 1:27—to know they were created by God.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
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2. Gen 1:28—to be fruitful and to have dominion.

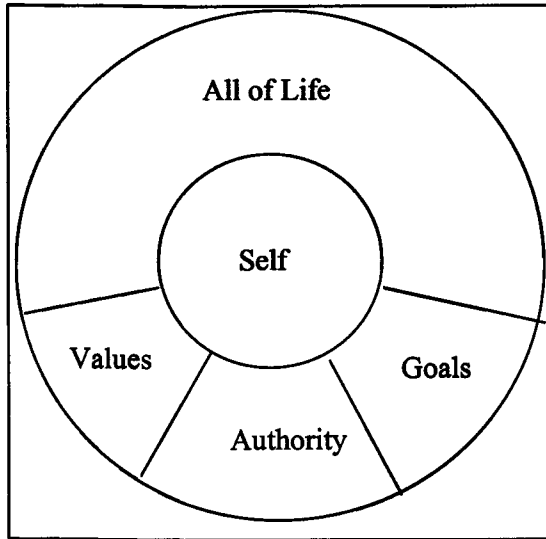
28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
NIV

3. Gen 1:29,30—to have needs and to have them met.

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.
NIV

4. Gen 1:31—to know they were created good.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.
NIV



5. Gen 2:15—to be alive and unique.

*15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
NIV*

6. Gen 2:15—to work, to choose, and to be responsible.

*15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
NIV*

7. Gen 2:16—to hear God and to choose to obey Him.

*16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;
NIV*

8. Gen 2:17—to choose to obey God or disobey Him.

*17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."
NIV*

9. Gen 2:18—to have a companion, to love, and know equality.

*18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
NIV*

10. Gen 2:19,20—to use God-given gifts.

*19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.
But for Adam no suitable helper was found.
NIV*

11. Gen 2:21-24—to love, to be loved, and to be intimate.

*21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.
23 The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."
NIV*

Lesson #3 – The People of Our Father

24 *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*
NIV

12. Gen 2:25—to be unashamed and to enjoy dignity.

25 *The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*
NIV

13. Gen 3:8—to have fellowship with God.

8 *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*
NIV

14. Gen 3:9,10—to be heard when they spoke.

9 *But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"*
10 *He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*
NIV

15. Gen 3:15,21—to receive redemption.

15 *And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."*
21 *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.*
NIV

D. Has God withheld any of these rights from you? No. While we may not demand our rights, and may not be able to receive all of them—we have them all.

E. Perhaps you were raised in a home where you were not recognized or treated as a person. Perhaps that is your situation in life now in some degree. If that is true, then it is inevitable that you have been taught many errors about yourself—when you were unable to recognize what was happening. Such errors make success very difficult to achieve and opens the door to the accusations and intimidation of the enemy.

Ps 19:12;

12 *Who can discern his errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.*
NIV

Jer 17:9;

- 9 *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.*

Who can understand it?
NIV

John 8:32,34,44;

32 *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

34 *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*

44 *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

NIV

James 1:22-25;

22 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.*

NIV

I Peter 5:8,9;

8 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

NIV

Rev 10:10

10 *I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.*

NIV

- F. We must pray for discernment, test our thoughts and emotions by the Bible, accept and practice the truth, reject all error and repudiate the work of the enemy. This will take hard work, and determination.

Rom 12:1,2;

1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer 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.*

NIV

Lesson #3 – The People of Our Father

I Cor 9:27;

27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.
NIV

II Cor 10:4,5;

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
NIV

I Thess 5:21,22;

21 Test everything. Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.
NIV

I John 4:1

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
NIV

II. God Created us Like Himself—a Spirit(ual) Person.

A. Spirit(ual) is WHO we are -- we are not primarily mind, emotions, will, body, or a social person. These are simply how we as a spirit person—FUNCTION. We are spirit, we have a soul (mind, will and emotions) and we live in a body. (I'm using "spirit" as "heart" is used in

Prov 3:1,5

*1 My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;*
NIV

and Prov 4:4,23)

*4 he taught me and said,
"Lay hold of my words with all your heart;
keep my commands and you will live.
23 Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life."
NIV*

See Rom 8:10;

10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.
NIV

I Cor 2:11;

*11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
NIV*

I Cor 6:17;

*17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.
NIV*

I Cor 14:2,14,15,16;

*2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.
14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. 16 If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying?
NIV*

Phil 4:23

*23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.
NIV*

- B. Spirit(ual) is our basic structure -- that is how we are designed, put together, given equipment and abilities to live and serve. Spirit is the determining character of our potential. We are not a "neutral" kind of person. We are not a "higher animal," or "rational animal."
- C. Spirit(ual) is particularly indicative of our vertical relationship with God. As a spirit person we were given the spiritual equipment and ability to hear God, to speak to God, to receive His love and to love Him. Because we are spirit people we can enter into a personal relationship with God. Our primary character cannot be defined by our horizontal relationships with the world and people about us -- as important as that may be for us in the will of God. We are primarily vertical people— related to God by His design.

Is 43:7,21;

*7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."
21 the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.
NIV*

I Cor 6:17

*17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.
NIV*

III. As a Spiritual Person -- we are now Fallen -- and Vulnerable to Error and Sin.

- A. In the Fall the relationship we had with God was broken. The vertical dimension was severed with all the serious consequences that followed: eternal and spiritual life became death—spiritual strength became weakness—spiritual love, joy and peace became hatred, sorrow and anxiety—spiritual fulfillment and well-being became spiritual emptiness, frustration and spiritual meaninglessness—the knowledge of God became ignorance of God—holiness of life and the joy in righteousness became sinful bondage, immorality, and the delight in unrighteousness—and freedom from Satan became enslavement to Satan through his lies and temptation.

Rom 1:21-32;

- 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*
- 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*
- 26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*
- 28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*
- NIV*

Rom 3:10-18;

- 10 As it is written:*
- “There is no one righteous, not even one;*
- 11 there is no one who understands,*
- no one who seeks God.*
- 12 All have turned away,*
- they have together become worthless;*
- there is no one who does good,*
- not even one.”*
- 13 “Their throats are open graves;*
- their tongues practice deceit.”*
- “The poison of vipers is on their lips.”*
- 14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and*
- bitterness.”*
- 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;*
- 16 ruin and misery mark their ways,*
- 17 and the way of peace they do not know.”*

18 *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."*
NIV

Eph 4:17-19

17 *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*
NIV

B. Even though born again—we are still vulnerable to error, sin and the enemy.

1. Through accepting error/programming (childhood, school, church)

Titus 1:12,13

12 *Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith*
NIV

2. Through the damage done by betrayal, abandonment, abuse, etc.

I Thess 5:14

14 *And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*
NIV

3. Through the "old nature" and its self-centeredness.

Eph 4:20-23

20 *You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;*
NIV

4. Through the sinful priorities of the world culture.

Rom 12:1,2

1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer 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.*
NIV

Lesson #3 – The People of Our Father

5. Through the error, insinuations and deception of the enemy.

2 Cor 11:3;

- 3 *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
NIV

I Peter 5:8

- 8 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
NIV

6. Through the lack of Church to disciple, discipline, & healing prayer.

James 5:16

- 16 *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*
NIV

7. Through our personal errors, sins, and self-centeredness.

Jer 2:15-17;

- 15 *Lions have roared;
they have growled at him.
They have laid waste his land;
his towns are burned and deserted.*
16 *Also, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes
have shaved the crown of your head.*
17 *Have you not brought this on yourselves
by forsaking the LORD your God
when he led you in the way?*
NIV

Jer 4:18;

- 18 *"Your own conduct and actions
have brought this upon you.
This is your punishment.
How bitter it is!
How it pierces to the heart!"*
NIV

Gal 5:7,8;

- 7 *You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.*
NIV

James 1:12-17

- 12 *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*
13 *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*
16 *Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*
NIV

C. Illustrations of powerful scars—repressed problems—open doors to the enemy.

1. "I don't measure up."
2. "I sinned." (affair, abortion, stole, lied, deceived)
3. "I'm abandoned."
4. "I'm unacceptable."
5. "It won't work for me."

D. Illustrations of powerful "compensation."

1. "I'm more spiritual than those other people."—pride and self-righteousness.
2. "I know what to do—more than those other people."—arrogance.
3. "I've worked harder and deserve more than those other people."—pride.

Conclusion: Heavenly Father, I confess my sin to You. You made me like Yourself as a spirit person—but I have spent most of my life taking care of my body and mind. I have been often proud of my body and mind and yet often ashamed of them. For most of my life I have neglected You and neglected responding to You in and by my spirit. I invite You to come into my life and uncover my sin and repressed errors. Please rescue me.

