



Church Planting Theology & Seminar Curriculum

“To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” John 10:3,4 (ESV)

Introduction:

For those of you who are called by God to start a new international church(es), this is one of the most important callings in life. Lets get clear. Jesus did not say, ‘Go into the world and make a career, raise a family, and retire with lots of money.’ None of those pursuits are wrong, but God has called you to make disciples throughout nations. This is more important than a career or retirement. 1 Timothy 5:8 demands us to not abandon the needs of our family when starting a church. But, you can successfully do both. And BICF is committed to help you to do both.

We too are called by God to make disciples of all nations. This is part of our vision statement: *“To build a vibrant, reproducing community unified in Christ, that embraces and transforms people of all nations to impact their cities, their nations, and the world for Christ.”* It is such reproducing communities that we are seeking to establish through out Asia and other areas around the world.

Do You Have This Calling?

How do you know if you have this calling? Consider the above verse. Jesus knows your name; He will call you out by name; He will go before you; and you will follow His leading because you know His voice. Such a God honoring direction is also confirmed through the fruit of your ministry, through your inner passion, prayer & devotional life, and finally affirmation through your local pastor(s) and their leadership team.

As Paul, Barnabas and several church leaders were worshipping the Lord, the Spirit called Paul and Barnabas to a new work. By that time, Paul and Barnabas were bearing wonderful fruit through their local ministry. Now the Spirit called some of the early churches’ finest to engage in cross cultural ministry called missions. God did not call everybody to such a task. But, He did call very talented and skilled individuals to this. They were faithful serving locally, and then the Spirit called them to serve globally, in different countries.

BICF has some questions for you:

Are you serving weekly at your local church?

Are you bearing fruit in your personal life with the Lord?

How is such fruit seen in the life of the church?

Have you describe your calling to your local pastor? (*This might take time and be hard to verbalize.*)

What must you learn in order to prepare for such a god-honoring calling?

Overview of BICF's Training Program:

Step 1: *Calling and Assessment.* (about one month)

- o Attends BICF's Church Planting Orientation Seminar.
- o Applies, Assessed and Approved by the International Church Planting consultant. *(If from an international church outside of BICF, then approval must be through them.)*
- o Planting coach / mentor approved by your pastor is assigned to the applicant.

Step 2: *Serving and Learning.* (about one year for those not already serving)

- o Serving & Learning at your local church.
- o Start connecting with your planting coach / mentor.
- o Clear rehearsed presentation for face to face appointments.
- o Begin fundraising through friends, family, contacts, etc....
- o Starting Fundraising and Prayer Team data base.
- o Assemble core leaders that meet weekly to pray and plan.

Step 3: *Core Team Development.* (three to six months)

- o Leadership core team assembled.
- o Searching for those divine appointments for new core launch team.
- o Research all legal requirements in home country.
- o List all your future church's physical needs. And research where to meet weekly.
- o Plan first service with researching the keys to your community.
Keys: music, the arts, food, relationships, entertainment, etc....

Step 4: *Pre-Launch Preparation.* (three months)

- o Set launch date & persevere through it.
- o Continue to meet monthly with sending church or your mentor.

Step 5: *Launch!*

Step 6: *The new international church prepares to launch a daughter church.*

This step by step process will take time and deliberate planning. Because BICF has so many different nations, cultures and language groups, such training will have to be individually adjusted for each person. In this manual, you will be given basic theology on a variety of subject matters. This will ground you in the essentials of the Christian faith. As you are faithful in this learning, you will greatly increase the fruitfulness of your ministry.

Plus, your pastor will be involved. He will be kept informed at every step. Great theological training is important for everyone, especially for future pastors. Along with this step by step process of preparing theologically, you will be assigned a planting mentor.

Thank you for taking time to consider how the Lord may be leading you. Please keep us in touch. As the saying is true: "Anybody can count the number of seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed." The seed that you are sowing will reap fruit that only God can measure.

Blessings,

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None of the doctrine notes are original with me. All these notes have been condensed from my Westminster Theological Seminary classes (unless otherwise stated). Again, unless otherwise noted, to the best of my knowledge, all theology references are from my seminary classes or other cited sources. None are original with me.

Important Final Note:

Also, all theology notes and practical ministry notes are written in bullet format without detailed explanations. This is in the interest of saving time and space. As one views this curriculum on video along side such notes, most of these abbreviated references should be understandable. Plus, all theology must be examined verse by verse. This will take time and diligence. Do not just absorb this manual without “flipping” through the pages in the Bible and slowly examining stated verses. When one takes the time to closely examine the Bible, it will become even more alive and treasured. Enjoy!

Doctrine of the Word of God

1 Exegetical Prologue

A) Necessity & Comprehensiveness of Revelation: Matt. 11: 25-27 / Luke 10: 21-22

“At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. ²⁷“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” Matthew 11:25-27 (NIV)

1) Necessity of Revelation

- a) Matt.11:25 “because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children..” Hidden stands in contrast to what is revealed. Clearly, revelation is disclosure of what is hidden. What did God hide? Why?
- b) Reference to babies. Note: Matt 18:3-4 repent and become like children, and Matt. 10:15 receiving the kingdom of God like a child. Why is God referencing children? We must have faith like a child. Therefore, revelation demands faith to understand it.
- c) God has no obligation to reveal v: 27 *“and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”*

B) Man’s Inability to Comprehend God: 1 Corinthians 2: 6 – 16 (NIV)

“⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” — the things God has prepared for those who love him — ¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” ^m But we have the mind of Christ.”

- 1) Consider the larger context. Paul counters false division between him and Apollos, not of Christ. Paul came not with wisdom of words, but the foolishness of the Cross.
- 2) :6 Paul identifies God’s revelation and subsequent wisdom as ‘not of this world.’
:7 *“destined for our glory before time began.”* Jesus was predestined to come and die.
:9 God’s wisdom is beyond our ability to perceive or speculate.
:10 All Godly wisdom is revealed to us. Therefore, God’s wisdom can never be understood or speculated by man without His help.

3) Activity of the Holy Spirit v: 10 - 14

- a) Notice the Trinitarian character of this passage.
- b) It is the Holy Spirit who brings response to the revelation of God (v:12).
- c) The natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit; it is foolishness (v:14).
- d) What is the totality of this statement? How big is this? Hint: This is very big!

D) If It Is All About Revelation, Where Does Our Reason Come Into Play?

1) Remember 1 Cor.2:14. Now combine this with Jer. 17:9,10!

"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit." 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ¹⁰ "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve." Jeremiah 17:9,10 (NIV)

2) Rom 10:17, *"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."*

3) First comes faith, THEN we use reason to understand our world through faith. It is important to use science, math, history, etc... to frame and understand our world. But, to correctly understand the totality of life, you first need Jesus and the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of you. With this, you will more correctly understand the weightier issues of life, such as: morals, life and death, justice, mercy, relationships, trust, love and hope.

4) Augustus: "Faith seeking understanding." Ansalom: "I believe in order that I might understand."

2 Universal Creation As Revelation (General Revelation)

A) It All Starts With God:

- 1) Gen 1:1 It Starts with God! Heaven and Earth created by God. Immediately all exists out of nothing.
- 2) Creation will reveal things about it's Creator. Potter/ Clay Is. 64:8, Jer. 18:6, Rom. 9:20 – 21. God reveals Himself in creation.

B) Psalms Speak of Creation Declaring God:

- 1) Psalm 19:1 The Heavens declare knowledge of God.
- 2) Psalm 50:6 The Heavens proclaim God's righteousness because He is judge.
- 3) Psalm 97:6 *"Heavens declare the righteousness of God, and all the peoples seen His glory."*

Summery: Heavens reveals specifics about God, His righteousness, judgment, glory

(only God has glory) - Holiness, therefore, glory is the manifestation of God.

C) God's Glory must be Veiled it is so intense:

- 1) Ex. 16:10 *"the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud."*
- 2) Ex. 24:17 mount Sinai consuming fire hidden by a cloud.
- 3) Ex. 34: 25 - 29 even Moses face glowed and the people couldn't take it.
- 4) Luke 2:9 even angels' holiness brings fear upon man.
- 5) Matt. 17 Mount of Transfiguration and the cloud.

D) Nature Reveals God & His Judgment (Rom. 1: 17 - 32).

"since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse" Romans 1:19-20 (NIV)

- 1) Paul is emphatic about this. Why are people are without excuse?
 - *"because God has made it plain to them."*
 - v:20 God made it this way, we see *"His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and divine nature which has been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."*
- 2) Notice, aspects of God's, invisible or unseen, can be known through nature.
We know of His eternal power and deity as seen through the lens of nature.

E) God's Laws Are Written Upon Our Hearts: Rom. 2: 14 - 15.

"Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right." Romans 2:14,15 (NLT)

- 1) Gentiles who do not have the Law of God do it instinctively.
- 2) This becomes the Law to themselves accusing or excusing themselves.

G) How To Witness To Non-Christians: Acts 17: 23 - 28

- v:23 *"TO AN UNKNOWN GOD."* Paul was preaching to the Athenians.
- v: 24 "God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth,"
- v: 25 "He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things;"
- v: 26 God controls history and peoples.
- v: 28 In Him we exist. Read it. Paul uses the Greek poet, Epimanides 300 BC.
Not that Paul resists natural theology, but can use it to build a bridge to unbelievers.

Paul used creation to establish common ground with non-Christians first. Then Paul told them about how mankind must repent. Lastly, Paul told them about Jesus.

3 Special Revelation

A) Pre-Fall Revelation Gen. 2:8-25.

- 1) God is speaking to man, verbal revelation! Profoundly simplistic.
- 2) Though there is little recorded of God speaking to man pre-fall, yet we are to assume this was the norm of communication and more of it occurred.
- 3) God did not settle for anything but a face to face relationship with man. Friends!
- 4) Thinking that God is not personal from Gen. 2 is unBiblical.

B) Post-Fall Revelation: Gen. 3: 9-22.

- 1) Effects were God and man no longer speaking as friends.
- 2) Yet, how did God relate to man? He spoke! God still speaks. The Bible is spiced with all different kinds of God's special revelation: prose, poetry, historical, apocalyptic, etc....
- 3) The focus of all this special revelation is Jesus Christ:
 - a) Luke 24: 45 - 47: Christ opened the disciples' mind to O.T. and that He had to suffer. Also, Jesus told them of how all the Scriptures pointed to Him! (v: 27).

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Luke 24:27 (NIV)

- b) O.T. prophets longed to know about Jesus Christ: "This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. ¹¹ They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward." 1 Peter 1:10,11 (NLT)
 - c) 1 Cor. 2:2 Know nothing but Christ Jesus and him crucified.

4 Authority and Inspiration of Scripture

A) Introduction Remarks:

- 1) Don't consider what so in so says about the Bible, but what does the Bible say about itself?
- 2) The Bible is not a doctrinal book, but more concerned with God's historical redemption.
- 3) What does the N.T. say about the O.T. and itself, the N.T.?

B) The Authority of God's Word: 2 Tim.3:16

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God ^p may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

- 1) "All Scripture" refers to the O.T.

2) It came from the mouth of God, therefore it is authoritative.

C) The Inspiration of God's Word: 2 Pet 1: 19 – 21 (NIV)

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

1) The stress is on the inspiration and not so much on the value of Scripture.

2) Negative Considerations:

- a) It is not the result of problem solving or some human philosophical fable making.
- b) It is not of private interpretation but available for public scrutiny and examination.
- c) Not written because man willed it. God initiated it, willed it.

3) Positive Considerations:

- a) Peter is stressing the entire Old Testament is trustworthy & reliable, not just part of it.
- b) Men spoke from God. Its source, content, and form is from God!

Notice: Some liberals think source is OK or form, but not the content. And this would naturally lead to human error. But, Peter said that the entire O.T. is trustworthy!

- 4) Men were "moved" *φερ'ομενιο* literally most common meaning is to carry or emotively charged. Over and over in the N.T., Jesus was "moved" with compassion.
- 5) Peter affirms that God not only spoke, but that He used people too. This necessitates people's personality, place in life, etc... People weren't (and are not) mindless robots.

D) Jesus' Reference to Its Inspiration: It is Inspired and Intensive.

1) John 10:35 *"Scripture can not be broken."*

2) Jesus said Scripture is binding to every single letter used the Hebrew. Intense!

"until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will be any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished" Matt 5:18 (NKJV)

3) *"It is written..."* Jesus often said this.

4) Road to Emmaus:

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Luke 24:27 (NIV)

E) Apostolic Inspired Authority

1) Paul's words were actually God's words.

"If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment." 1 Corinthians 14:37 (NASB)

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe" 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NASB)

2) Paul's teaching is Revelation from Christ.

"I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:11,12 (NASB)

Gal. 2:2 Paul submitted his revelation (the Gospel) to the Apostles. The Gospel comes from Jesus not from man (cross ref 2 Pet. 1:20,21).

3) Peter supports Paul! His writings are of equal value as Scripture - Authoritative & Binding.

"He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction." 2 Peter 3:16 (NASB)

4) Harsh judgment on those who pervert the Apostles' teachings: Gal. 1:9, Rev 22:18-19.

"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! ⁹As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!" Galatians 1:8,9 (NASB)

"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. ¹⁹And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll."
Revelation 22:18,19 (NASB)

5 The Inerrancy (without error) of the Bible:

A. God cannot lie. He speaks truth and does not "trick us."

"And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant." 2 Samuel 7:28 (NKJV)

"... which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago," Titus 1:2 (NASB)

"in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us." Hebrews 6:18 (NKJV)

The Bible poetically calls itself super purified!

“And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.” Psalm 12:6 (NIV)

B. The Bible can be Inerrant and still use ordinary speech!

- 1) Approximate numbers in counting is not false. When the Bible states that 8,000 men died in battle, it is correct even though the actual number may be 8001 or 7,999. If the numbers are off by a hundred plus, it is still accurate to say 8,000. We do this daily in news reports around the world. It is not un-factual to approximate numbers.
- 2) This approximation is also true for distances. Did you travel 1 mile or 1.12783.... miles? It is accurate to summarize 1 mile. If not, then all speech using measurements of any kind in daily life would be hopelessly complex.
- 3) Ordinary speech is OK. It is not un-factual to say, the sun is rising and the rain is falling. Scientifically speaking, the sun does not rise. Plus, rain falling here in the Northern hemisphere would be rising in the Southern hemisphere.

C. Scripture quoting speech does not have to be word for word.

New Testament Greek has no direct quotation marks in their punctuation. Today, Western standards do, and to not have quotation marks would imply such speech as possibly inaccurate. But we cannot go back 2,000 years and demand people to step it up to our standards. Back then, if you quote someone with a correct representation of the person's words, it is truthful and accurate. This would be like our modern indirect quotes.

D. Is inerrancy OK even with bad grammar?

Of course it is! Ever talk with someone speaking broken English? If they mispronounce or use bad grammar, is what they are saying suddenly not truthful?

6 The Clarity of the Scriptures:

A. The Bible assumes it is clear enough to be taught to be meditated upon.

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NKJV)

*“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”
Psalm 1:2 (NKJV)*

B. The Scriptures can make wise the simple!

“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:7 (NIV)

*“The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”
Psalm 119:130 (NIV)*

Cross reference with: Pro 1:4; 7:7; 8:5; 9:6; 14:15,18; 22:3; 27:12; 2 Cor. 1:13; Eph 3:4; 1 Tim 4:13; James 1:1,22-25; 1 Pet. 1:1, 2:2; 2 Peter 1:19; 1 John 5:13

C. Jesus assumes his audience understood the Old Testament.

Never once did Jesus say something like, 'I know the Scriptures are hard to understand, ...' Even though it was written a thousand plus years earlier, it was and is clear.

Jesus spoke to common people as well as scholars. When there was misunderstanding of the Old Testament, Jesus never blamed it on how complicated it was. Rather, Jesus put the blame on teachers who misunderstand or flat out twist the Scriptures in their favor.

D. Final note: clarity doesn't imply super easy.

Understanding God's word will still take discipline over the long haul. Compare this with learning one's country driving manual. At first, it is overwhelming and a bit confusing. But, with effort, it is manageable. The Bible is no different, but infinitely more important!

7 The Bible is only Authoritative for "Faith & Practice."

A) Some would say that the Bible is really good for only moral decisions.

Some illogically say parts of the Bible are full of errors and not inerrant. The Bible is only useful for general morals. And any minor historical details or scientific facts that are incorrect does not effect the usefulness of the Bible. The Bible is infallible for living, but not inerrant.

Problem. The Bible states that all Scripture is profitable. Not just the parts that are moral.

Profitable: *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;"* 2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

Pure: *"The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times."* Psalm 12:6 (NASB)

Perfect: *"I have seen a limit to all perfection; Your commandment is exceedingly broad."* Psalm 119:96 (NASB)

True: *"Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection."* Proverbs 30:5 (NLT)

B. Plus, New Testament authors cited Old Testament narratives as fact.

Whether those details were small or large, there was never a separation in the minds of the N.T. authors between "Faith & Practice." It was all facts! The following is a sample list:

"Jonah was in the whale (Matt. 12:40); the men of Nineveh repented (Matt. 12:41); the **queen of the South came to** Solomon (Matt 12:42); Elijah was sent to the widow of Zarepheth (Luke 4:25-26); Naaman the Syrian was cleansed of leprosy (Luke 4:27); on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from heaven (Luke 17:29; cf v. 32 with its reference to Lot's wife who turned to salt); Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness

(John 3:14); Jacob gave a field to Joseph (John 4:5); many details of the history of Israel occurred (Acts 13:17-23); Abraham believed and received the promise before he was circumcised (Rom. 4:10); Abraham was about one hundred years old (Rom. 4:19); God told Rebekah before her children were born that the elder child would serve the younger (Rom. 9:10-12); Elijah spoke with God (Rom. 11:2-4); The people of Israel passed through the sea, ate and drank spiritual food and drink, desired evil, sat down to drink, rose up to dance, indulged in immorality, grumbled and were destroyed (1 Cor. 10:11); Abraham gave a tenth of everything to Melchizedek (Heb. 7:1-2); the Old Testament tabernacle had a specific and detailed design (Heb. 9:1-5);" See the complete list in Wayne Grudem's book, "Systematic Theology." Zondervan: 1994, p. 94.

C. A summary cannot be used to negate details it is summarizing!

This is the purpose of a summary; to condense the details. You cannot use "faith and practice" as a summary statement for the Bible and then say all its minor historical and scientific details are not true or important. That is like saying the summary purpose of the Constitution is to protect individual rights. Therefore, some other details in the constitution are unimportant or not factual. Wrong. It is all important. So also the Bible!

D. Because we have no inerrant original manuscripts, It is full of errors.

Many claim that the original manuscripts were inerrant. But, we do not have any. Therefore, all the manuscripts we do have from the early centuries have errors. Thus, our modern day version of the Bible is full of errors.

Problem: As historians have gathered all those "error" filled manuscripts, we can reconstruct 99% of the New Testament word for word. And the last 1% that is different only differs in spelling of words and does not effect any basic doctrine of Christianity. Further, we have Old Testament manuscripts from the Qumran findings that predate Jesus! And those works line up 99.9% with our current Hebrew Old Testament.

E. There are many clear errors in the Bible.

Well, if there are, show them to me. Lets look into them one at a time. Chances are, very few genuinely interested in the truthfulness of the Bible will go deep with you on that one. Only those who are steeped in sin and hate towards God will continue press you. At that point, don't even bother. You won't change them. They do not want to change. They only want to argue.

F. "Giving us Scripture, God is an artist, not a photographer." Abram Kuyper.

The accuracy is impressionistic in character, not photographically precise. The Bible is not a science manual. The intent is accurate according to the form of purpose. Therefore, the exact number of armies is not necessary. But the historicity is. The Bible was not written as an architectural schematic detailed to the millimeter. It is written as an ancient near east text detailing God's redemptive plan for mankind over the span of two thousand years. In this purpose, the form of the Bible, using different genres of literature, is inerrant and applies to every aspect of our lives.

Doctrine of God

1 Exegetical Prologue: Knowledge of God.

A) The Bible says that to know God is the greatest privilege:

“but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 9:24 (ESV)

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3 (NASB)

B) The knowledge of God lies at the heart of the Covenant Promise of God:

“I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.” Jeremiah 24:7 (NASB)

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. 33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”
Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NASB)

C) Central to the Knowledge of God is Jesus!

a) 1 John 2:2, John 17:3, 2 Cor. 4:6.

b) Heathens do not know God:

1 Thes. 4:5

Gal.4:8,9 They do not know God, and are slaves to sin and idols.

D) Knowledge of God is critical to our Christian Growth:

Col.1:10 *“Grow in the knowledge of God...”*

2 Pet.1:2 *“Grace and Peace through the knowledge of God...”*

2 Pet.3:18 *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

Eph.1:17 *“...may give you the spirit and revelation in order to know Him better...”*

E) Classic Proofs of God:

1) Ontological Argument: by Anselm of Canterbury:

- a) God is by definition that which nothing greater can be conceived.
- b) Thus His existence must be because there is much to be perceived.
Since we cannot define God because of our finite brains, He must exist outside of us.
- c) Weakness: Incredibly subjective and “wishy-washy.” This was developed to support Anselm’s, “I believe in order to understand.” This argument is good to that faith is rational, but it is not for those who do not have faith yet.

2) Cosmological Argument: Thomas Aquinas:

- a) Trace back the cause and effect stream until you get to the original cause.
- b) What caused the original cause? The “unmoved mover.”
- c) Weakness: Big leap of logic to trace cause and effect micro to cause and effect for the whole universe! Plus, jumping from the universe to God is another huge leap of faith.

3) Teleological Argument: William Paley 1794:

- a) The watch example.
- b) Weakness: Again big leap of faith from a flower to the entire universe.
Plus, does not answer why God made such integrate creations.

4) Historical Argument: Throughout time, all peoples sense God.

Weakness: Too subjective.

5) Moral Argument: We all have a sense of right and wrong.

Weakness: Too many different opinions on what is right and wrong to be a proof.

Summery:

- a) All have significant weaknesses.
- b) Yet they all do have elements of truth. Not a proof, but good reasoning.
They all have presuppositions that God is already true and uses such truth to help man.

2 Deity of the Father and Jesus:

A) The Unity of God

- 1) Deut. 6:4 God is one: *“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!”* (NASB)
- 2) Is.44:6 *“I am the First and the Last, apart from me there is no other God.”* (NKJV)
- 3) New Testament Agreement:

“yet for us there is one God, ...” 1 Corinthians 8:6 (ESV)

“one God and Father of all, ...” Ephesians 4:6 (ESV)

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”
James 2:19 (ESV)

Notice: The N.T. is never embarrassed to proclaim the unity of God.

B) The Deity of the Father (as separate from the Son):

1) *“At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. 26 “Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. 27 “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”*
Matthew 11:25 (NASB)

2) *“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.”* John 3:16 (NIV)

3) *“Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. 20 “For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.”* John 5:19. 20 (NASB)

4) *“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”* Colossians 3:17 (NASB)

C) The Deity of Jesus: The Gospel of John.

(Warfield said that the deity of Jesus is so overwhelming that it is difficult to adequately explain.)

1) The Gospel of John: Chapter 1.

Jesus was preexistent with God: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”* John 1:1,14 (NIV)

Jesus made all of creation: *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”* John 1:3 (NIV) (Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2)

Jesus is the Author and sustainer of life. *“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.”* John 1:4 (NIV)

The invisible God was explained and made clear in Jesus.

"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him." John 1:18 (NASB)

"Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" John 14:8,9 (ESV)

2) Jesus Returning to the Glory of God the Father:

"Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began." John 17:5 (NLT)

"I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one." ...²⁴ Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!"

John 17:22,24 (NLT)

3) Thomas' confession: "My Lord and my God." John 20:28.

4) Jesus as God is interpretatively consistent with the whole of the Gospel.

Jesus making Himself equal with God: *"But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." ¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God." John 5:17,18 (ESV)*

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." [57] So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" [58] Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." [59] Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."

John 8:56-59 (NASB-U)

"I and the Father are one." ³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" ³³ The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

John 10:30-33 (ESV)

5) Rev. 4 & 5 Everybody worshiping Jesus as God.

D) Synoptic (Matthew, Mark and Luke) Witness to Jesus' Deity:

1) Jesus can forgive sins just as easily as making a crippled man can walk.

"he [Jesus] said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

Mark 2:10,11 (NIV) (insert added)

2) Jesus referring to Himself as the fulfiller of Ps. 110 in Matt.22:44.

"He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, ⁴⁴ " 'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." ' ⁴⁵ If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions."

Matthew 22:44 (NIV)

3) Jesus's Trial Matt. 26:63 - 65. Fulfillment of Dan.7:13. Why did they want to kill Him?

"But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered."

Matthew 26:63-66 (NIV)

4) Jesus Accepts Worship. You can only worship God!

"And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Matthew 8:2 (NKJV)

"While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."

Matthew 9:18 (NKJV)

"And His disciples came and urged Him (Jesus), saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." ... ²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

Matthew 15:23,25 (NKJV)

In the book of John, chapter 9, Jesus healed a blind man. Later, when Jesus revealed himself to this healed man, he said *"Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.*" John 9:38

When Jesus first appeared to His disciples after rising from the dead, this is what happened: *"When they saw him, they worshiped him, ..."* Matthew 28:17 (NIV)

3. Deity of the Holy Spirit:

A) O.T. References to Deity of the Holy Spirit:

- a) The Power to create: Gen.1:2, Psalm 33:6, Job 26:13.
- b) "Holy Spirit" mentioned in Psalm 51:11 and Is. 63:10,11.
- c) The Spirit communicates to the Old Testament prophets as God:

"Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, 9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS." Hebrews 3:7-9 (NASB)

"The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue."

2 Samuel 23:2 (NASB)

“They made their hearts like ^bflint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.” Zechariah 7:12 (NASB)

d) Striking contrast: In the O.T. God is called the “Holy One of Israel” many times (Ps.71:22, 89:18, Is.10:20; 41:14; 48:17). Yet in the N.T., seldom is the word “Holy” described of God, rather it is ascribed to the Spirit.

B. New Testament References to the Deity of the Holy Spirit:

a) God is said to be spirit:

*“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
John 4:24(NASB)*

*“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”
2 Corinthians 3:17 (NASB)*

b) The Spirit of God dwells in you.

*“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”
1 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB)*

c) Acts 5:3,4 ‘you didn’t lie to men, but to God.’

*“But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”
Acts 5:3,4 (NASB)*

C) Deity Characteristics of the Holy Spirit.

- **Omnipresence** (everywhere at once):

“I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! ⁸ If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. ⁹ If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.” Psalm 139: 7-10 (NLT)*

- **Omniscience** (all knowing):

*“Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has informed Him? 14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge and informed Him of the way of understanding?”
Isaiah 40:13,14 (NASB) (Rom 11:34)*

*“For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”
1 Corinthians 2:10:11 (NASB)*

- **Eternal:**

“how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Hebrews 9:14 (NASB)

- **The Power to create:** Gen.1:2, Psalm 33:6, Job 26:13.

Doctrine of the Trinity:

1. O.T. Hints to the Trinity:

- A) *“Let us make man in our image, according to Our likeness.”* Genesis 1:26-27 (NASB)
- B) *“Behold, the man has become like one of Us,”* Genesis 3:22 (NASB)
- C) *“The Lord said to My Lord,” ... “The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. 5 The Lord is at Thy right hand;”*
Psalm 110:1,4,5 (NASB)
- D) Is 7:14, 9:6 *“God with Us.”* Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, etc....

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.” Micah 5:2 (NASB)

E) God the Savior and the Holy Spirit mentioned:

“For He said, “Surely, they are My people, sons who will not deal falsely.” So He became their Savior. 9 In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, ... 10 But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.”
Isaiah 63:8-10 (NASB)

F) O.T. does not teach the Trinity as the N.T. does. In light of the N.T., one can see the Trinity in the O.T. Warfield described it like a dimly lit room of furniture. If one adds more light, we can see clearly all the furniture. But turning up the lights does not add furniture, just reveals what is already there. So the N.T. adds light to the understanding of the Trinity in the O.T. It does not add “furniture,” just reveals what is already there.

2. New Testament Trinity Passages:

A) The Baptism of Jesus:

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
Matthew 3:16 (NIV)

B) Temptation of Jesus – 40 days in the wilderness: Luke 4: 1-12

Jesus being led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. Then later, Jesus referenced that we are to worship God the Father. We can see Jesus, the Spirit and the Father.

C) Jesus rebuking demons by the Holy Spirit:

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Matthew 12:28 (NIV)

D) Death of Christ:

Jesus laid down His own life: *“No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”* John 10:18 (NASB)

H.S. delivered up Jesus: *"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* Hebrews 9:14 (NASB)

The Father gave up Jesus: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* John 3:16 (NASB)

E) Resurrection of Christ:

Jesus raised Himself from the grave: *"No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."* John 10:18 (NASB)

The Spirit raised Jesus up from the grave: *"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;"* 1 Pet.3:18 (NASB)

Father raised Jesus from the dead: *"Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead,"* Galatians 1:1 (NASB)

F) Baptism Formula of Matt. 28:18-20.

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

G) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

"Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven." Matthew 12:31 (NASB)

3. Economy of the Trinity:

1) The Father gives directions to Jesus, not visa versa

a) (John 5:19-20).

- Use of the term "Father" or Abba implies headship.
- Notice Jesus said whatever He does, it is because the Father is first doing it.
- Jesus does nothing apart from the Father.

"Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these." John 5:19,20 (NIV)

b) The Father sent Jesus, not visa versa.

"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." John 3:16 (NIV)

c) Jesus took His lead from the Father's directions.

"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:39 (NIV)

d) Coming from the Father, Jesus finished His Father's work:

"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." ... "8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me." John 17:4,8 (NIV)

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." John 6:38 (NIV)

2. Holy Spirit is working for the Son.

If the Holy Spirit worked separate from Jesus, *rampant mysticism would result!!**

a) The Holy Spirit represents Jesus in us, the church body, today:

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." Ephesians 1:22,23 (NIV)

"And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his spirit." Ephesians 2:22 (NIV)

b) Jesus guides His body, the Church, through the continuing work of the Holy Spirit:

"until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen." Acts 1:2 (NIV)

c) The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus and the Father.

- Jesus sends the Holy Spirit.

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26 (NIV)

"As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him."

1 John 2:27 (NIV)

- The Father sends the Holy Spirit.

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me." John 15:26 (NIV)

"We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts 5:32 (NIV)

d) The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own initiative. John 16: 13,14

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”

John 16:13,14 (NIV)

* By the way, this is theologically huge! There are lots of spiritual wacko's out there that claim they hear from the great Spirit, and it tells them to: have sex with whomever they want, prosperity is your destiny, drink this Kool-aid that is laced, etc.... Get the point? The Holy Spirit is not going to make up some new weird theology. The Spirit submits Himself to Jesus. Nobody can Biblically claim that the Spirit told him or her to do something obviously totally unbiblical like rob a bank and sell drugs.

Doctrine of Jesus Christ

1. The Importance and Challenge of Jesus Christ:

A) Jesus Demands an Answer:

a) From His Disciples:

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Matthew 16:13-15 (NIV)

b) From the Religious leaders:

“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,⁴² “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” “The son of David,” they replied.”
Matthew 22:42 (NIV)

c) This demands a confession of faith from all of us.

B) Peter’s Confession About Jesus:

“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.¹⁸ “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.¹⁹ “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:15-19 (NASB)

a) It was emphatic! *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

b) Mankind must have Supernatural help to understand!

c) Power behind this! *“and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.”* (v: 18) &
“Whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (v: 19)

C) The Centrality of Jesus in the Bible:

a) Jesus opened the disciples’ mind to O.T. *and that He had to suffer.*
Also, Jesus told them of how all the Scriptures pointed to Him! (v: 27).

“Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” Luke 24:45-47 (NASB)

b) Old Testament prophets searched the Bible to know about Jesus!

“As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you make careful search and inquiry,¹¹ seeking to know what person of time the Spirit of

Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.” 1 Peter 1: 10,11 (NASB)

c) The apostle Paul delivered as of first importance what he had received.

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,” 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 (NASB)

d) *“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”*
1 Corinthians 2:2 (NASB)

e) John 14:6, Act 4:12, Galatians 2:20, Galatians 6:14 etc....

D) Two Dangers to be Avoided:

a) Jesus is just one of many prophets to be considered.

b) Can't landslide everything as allegory of Jesus. Must understand the Redemptive Historical context of each person in the Bible. Appreciate their distinctive character, circumstances and unfolding revelation of God and ultimately Jesus.

2. The Plan of Salvation was Predestined:

“This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.” Acts 2:23 (NIV)

“Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.” Acts 4:27,28 (NIV)

a) Jesus was delivered up according to *“God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge”*. (2:23)

b) Who nailed Him to the Cross? Wicked Men:

“with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.” (2:23)

c) Who also killed Jesus? Pontius Pilate, Gentiles and people of Israel involved:

“²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.” (4:28)

d) Who killed Jesus? Jesus Himself, the Holy Spirit and God the Father.

Jesus allowed Himself to be killed: *“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.” John 10:17,18 (NIV)*

The Holy Spirit offered up Jesus to be killed: *“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God,”*
Hebrews 9:14 (NIV)

The Father killed Jesus: *“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.” John 3:16 (NIV)*

- e) The Cross isn't some heroic triumphant tactic, some amazing reaction to the surprise of human sin. This wasn't some ingenious, spontaneous answer to man's unexpected sin problem. This was predestined.

3. It All Started with Adam:

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned — ¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. ¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous." Romans 5:12-19 (NIV)

"For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (NIV)

- 1) v:12 Through one man, sin came into the world, Adam.
- 2) Therefore sin spread to all men (v:12)
- 3) By one man's offense = many died. By one man's grace, Jesus = Many alive! (v:15)
- 4) v: 16, 17 summarized in verses 18 and 19. Three times, the same thing was said.
- 5) v: 18 Through Adam's one act, his sin, judgment and condemnation came to all man.
- 6) Through Jesus' one act, the Cross, the Life & Justification (v:18). (1 Cor. 15:20,21)
- 7) Through Adam, many were made sinners so through Jesus many made Righteous (v:19).
- 8) Is man condemned because he has sinned or because he was born under Adam? Both.

4. The New Covenant in Jesus:

1) The Sin of Adam & the Hints of Grace:

- a) Even though they blew it, the "Seed" was promised through them.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." ¹⁶ To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth

children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” Genesis 3:15,16 (NASB)

b) Blessings through child birth (v: 16).

c) Even Adam’s curse did not deny Him the dignity of work & being in the image of God:

“Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.” Genesis 3:17 (NASB)

d) Adam and Eve accepted their punishment trusting God through their “Seed.”

e) Begins the Era of Common Grace:

- Essence of Common Grace is the delay of eschatological judgment, makes room for history. Common Grace is the servant of Special Grace.

- Common Grace does not change man’s total depravity. (See Magnitude of Sin p.50-54.)

2) The Fall Resulted in a Covenant of Works:

a) Adam and Eve had to “work” now with the hope of redemption in their seed.

“Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:17-19 (NASB)

b) God had to sacrifice animals to cover up Adam and Eve’s sin.

“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21 (NASB)

c) The Patriarchs had to sacrifice to God in order to “get right” with God.

d) The 10 Commandments summarize the Covenant of Works. (Gen. 20; Deut. 5:6)

e) The whole Tabernacle / Temple cultic life centered around works.

f) They all did works to be temporarily right with God. They were anticipating the Messiah (the “Seed”) who will fix man’s broken relationship with God.

g) The Covenant of Works was perfected through Jesus. Jesus’ Covenant of Grace was attained through Jesus’ Covenant of Works. He earned this one for us.

h) The purpose of the Law or Works is to point us to Jesus (Gal.3:24) for we are under a New Covenant (Matt.26:28, 29). This is to fulfill Jer. 31:31.

“So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.”

Galatians 3:24 (NIV)

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:28,29 (NIV)

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah." Jeremiah 31:31 (NIV)

i) We are now under the New Covenant!

"He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." 2 Corinthians 3:6

"If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰ For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹ And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!" 2 Corinthians 3:9-11 (NIV)

j) This New Covenant is a Covenant of the forgiveness of sins, personal relationship with God, freedom to pursue the righteousness / holiness of God, etc..., but it is a covenant of Power (Eph.3:7, 1 Cor. 1:18, 25).

"I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power." Ephesians 3:7 (NIV)

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." ... "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." 1 Corinthians 1:18,25 (NIV)

"The law without grace is powerless; grace without the law is meaningless." Andrew Murray.
"All Discipline + No Love = Rebellion & No Discipline + All Love = Chaos.

5. The Stages of Christ's Work:

1) The Incarnation of Christ:

a) Jesus was the Word who became flesh.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God." ... "14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, ..." John 1:1,14 (ESV)

b) His birth was through the Virgin Mary conceived through the Holy Spirit.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

"²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ... ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord

had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).” Matthew 1:20-23 (ESV)

“And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

Luke 1:34,35 (ESV)

c) He gave up pre-incarnate glory to come in the form of a man (Phil.2:6-7, John 17:5, 24).

“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:6-8 (ESV)

“And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.” ... “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:5,24 (ESV)

d) Gal.4:4 “God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law.”
Jesus was born under the law.

e) This being born under the law resulted in

- Jesus ceased to be in Heaven as fully God, but now God and fully man.
- Jesus gave up his omniscience, omnipresence (and maybe omnipotence).
- Jesus gave up his independence as God, but served only the Father. He restrained Himself to only do what the Father willed.

2) His Death:

a) The consequence of sin are many fold: fear, alienation, shame / guilt, death, etc....

- How did God restore Adam and Eve? He re-clothed them.

- Priestly clothes are very important symbolically.

- Jesus experienced the ultimate in fear, shame and alienation so we do not have to suffer the consequences of death (2 Cor.5:21).

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

- We are to re-clothe ourselves with Christ daily: Eph. 4:22-24, 6:14-17; Col. 3:8-10.

b) Jesus died on the Cross, the most cruel public torture the Romans could think of.

c) His death on the Cross was Predestined (see notes previously).

3) Descent into Hell: The Apostle’s Creed stating Jesus descended into Hell

- a) Some view Ps 16:10 as prophetic to Jesus, *“O Lord, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit.”* Speculative that this precisely refers to Jesus descending into Hell.
- b) In Eph. 4:8-10 refers to Jesus ascending. Therefore some believe this must mean Jesus descended into Hell and not just the grave. Again, speculation.
- c) 1 Tim. 3:16, *“was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”* Some again infer Hell here, but very speculative.
- d) 1 Pet.3:18 - 4:6, Huge controversy over what this passage is really saying. For a full description of this, visit *Wayne Grudem’s book, “Systematic Theology.” Zondervan: 1994, p. 586-592.*

View # 1: St. Augustine’s View.

- Spirits in prison refer to people prior to the flood.
- Jesus preached to them via Noah.
- We are like Noah’s preaching to those who are alive, but spiritually “dead” so many will be saved (v:4:6).

Problems:

- Are spirits literally people or fallen angels?
- Fallen angels are certainly in verse 22.

View # 2: Jesus Literally Preached To Souls in Hell.

- After Jesus died and before His resurrection, He preached to lost souls.
- We are like Noah’s preaching to those who are alive, but spiritually “dead” so many will be saved (v:4:6).

Problems:

- What about those who died after Jesus?
- Jesus was made alive in his resurrection, not in His death.

View # 3: 1 Enoch Theory.

- In 1 Enoch 12:4, the spirits (as referred in 1 Pet. 3:19) were destroyed in the flood.
- These spirits were not human, but demonic.
- The preaching Jesus did was not for salvation, but condemnation.

Problems:

- Why would Peter quote from a non-Canonical book?
- Why would Peter write about the 8 people being saved if the thrust of this passage is about evil spirits being preached to?

View #4: Liberal View.

- Jesus descended into Hell and preached to humans.
- Not just any humans, but to dead Jews.
- Sometimes referred to Purgatory by Post Reformation Catholics.

Problems:

- No mention of unbelieving Jews in the passage.
- No mention of Hades.
- What about those who never heard of Jesus after His resurrection?

View #5: Peter Used Enoch Story.

- Maybe verse 19's ἐν ᾧ refers not to the resurrection in the last clause in verse 18, but refers to, "in this line of thinking."
- What is the nature of ἐκηρυξεν, to proclaim? Is it always the Gospel?
- Jesus became alive when ascended from death, not glorified in His death.
- Spirits, πνεύμασι, normally refers to just that, spirits, not humans.
- 1 Enoch was well known to the readers.
- Peter used 1 Enoch to draw parallels.
 - In 1 Enoch the flood was condemnation for demons and children of demons.
 - the flood was a type of imprisonment.
 - the flood was a symbol of death.
 - So we to through the baptism through death. We are saved through the ark of Jesus from the baptism of destruction that God will do.

Summery: Nobody really knows for sure what this passage is saying. In combination with other passages such as Psalm 16:10, Eph 4:8-10, and 1 Tim.3:16, the doctrine that Jesus descended into Hell is still ambiguous.

4) His Resurrection:

- a) Tons of Biblical references: Mat.28:1-10; Mk 16:6, 12, 14, 19; Luke 24: 5,6,30,31, 36ff; John 20:9,14-17, 19ff, 21: 7ff. So many epistle references that I am not going to bother.
- b) If He did not rise from the dead, we are the biggest fools.

"For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. ... ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world."

1 Corinthians 15:13-19 (NLT)

- c) Notice, He still has the nail scars on is Hands.

"²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." John 20:27 (ESV)

"And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, ..." Revelation 5:6 (ESV)

5) His Exaltation to Heaven:

- a) The eyewitness accounts: Luke 24:49-53: Acts 1:9-11.

"When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." Luke 24:50-53 (NIV)

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand

here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9-1 (NIV)

b) What is His exaltation? Col.2:9 *“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;”*

c) He is at the right hand of God:

“You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”
Matthew 26:64 (NIV)

“Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” Romans 8:34 (NIV) (also see Hebrews 7:25)

“he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”
Ephesians 1:20,21 (NIV)

“But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,” Hebrews 10:12 (NIV)

“who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” 1 Peter 3:22 (NIV)

6) His Second Coming:

a) Jesus’ second coming Matt. 24: 27-31, 36, 37, 44; Luke 21: 25-28; Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 2:19, 3:13, 4:15, 5:23; 2 Thes 2:1; James 5: 7,8; 2 Pet.3:4; Rev. 19:11-21.

“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. ²⁹ “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ ³⁰ “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” Matthew 24:27-31 (NIV)

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11 (NIV)

b) We are admonished to anticipate His 2nd Coming: 1 Cor.1:7; 4:5; 11:26; Phil.3:20; Col.3:4; 1 Thes.4:15-17; 2 Thes. 1:7-10; Tit.2:13; Rev.1:7.

“Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.” 1 Corinthians 1:7 (NIV)

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ," Philippians 3:20 (NIV)

c) He will judge the world: Matt.24:30,31; 25:32,33.

"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."

Matthew 24:30,31 (NIV)

"All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." Matthew 25:32,33 (NIV)

The Atonement of Christ

Introduction:

Much of this section is from Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology. None of this work is original with me.

1. The Major Historical Views of the Atonement:

1) The Socinian Theory: The Atonement as Example, Modern day Unitarians.

- a) Jesus' earthly ministry was primarily prophetic, not priestly.
- b) But in heaven, His priestly office is basically His kingly office.
- c) His death was a wonderful example for us to follow, not some satisfaction of a cryptic cultic fulfillment of the Temple system.
- d) His resurrection confirmed His teachings and promises.
- e) Their battle cry is 1 Pet.2:21 and 1 John 2:6.
- f) They are Pelagians.
- g) God is not a God of justice only love.
- h) Jesus wasn't God, but only a man. He inspires us to follow the Father with such devotion.

Problems: Numerous! Scriptures referring to the death of Christ as a ransom, sacrifice, priesthood, sin bearing, etc.... Plus, Jesus is God.

2) The Moral Influence Theory:

- a) Different from the Unitarians in that Christ's death is an example of Jesus' divine love.
- b) Founder Abelard was reacting to Anselm's beliefs that God crushed Jesus to satisfy the necessary consequences of sin. Rather, Abelard believed there is no "blood thirsty" need to atone for sin. Jesus died to simply show how much God loves us.
- c) Mankind's problem in life isn't sin, but fear and ignorance of God.
- d) This was picked up and popularized in the States by Horace Bushnell (1802-76).
- e) God is basically love. They minimize His justice, holiness and righteousness.
- f) Our disobedience is a source of pain to God and He loves us.
- g) Jesus did not come to "square up the account of our sins" or satisfy divine justice.

Problems? So many, hard to list them. This theory is: "Going to hell, jet propelled."

3) The Government Theory: Divine Justice.

- a) Grotius (1583-1645) a lawyer, raised as a Calvinist, but later became an Arminian.
- b) Emphasis on God's divine justice; He is a ruler and not just a master. A master can have mercy and let things slide, but not a ruler.
- c) But this is different than Anselm's in that he pictured Christ's death as an actual penalty paid on behalf of you and me. Grotius rejected this. No one can pay for the sins of another. Christ's death was not vicarious bearing of our punishment, but a demonstration of God's hatred of sin, a demonstration intended to induce in us a horror of sin. As we turn from sin we can be forgiven.

- d) If Jesus has already forgiven our future sins, we can sin all we want!
Grotius likes his interpretation better.
- e) The focus of the Cross was for humans to know how ticked God is at sin and repent.
The Cross did not satiate God's anger toward sin.
- f) Problem: Where is the Scriptural support for this? What does this lead to, for the believer? Where is the grace of God? This God is a hard task master.

4) The Ransom Theory: Origen and Gregory of Nyssa.

- a) Satan is the ruling power on earth, and man is enslaved to Satan because of his sin. We have been bought with a price (1 Cor.6:20).
- b) Christ died on the Cross to pay Satan the penalty price for sin. Where is the Scripture?
- c) Gregory said that God deceived Satan in giving Satan Jesus who was just a man. When Satan accepted and Jesus died, Jesus deity was revealed and Satan was "tricked."
- d) It is OK to use trickery because it was for a good cause.
- e) Augustine also held this view but not the part of God tricking, Satan blew it because of his own pride.
- f) Problems: Again where is the Scriptural support for most of this theory?

5) The Satisfaction Theory: Compensation to the Father

- a) Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury (1033-1109). When he lived the dominant force in society was not the Roman Empire, but the Feudal system. Violations were now thought of as an act against one's lord.
- b) Catholics developing their penance doctrine.
- c) Anselm rejected the ransom theory. Humans do not belong to Satan, but God. God does not have to purchase them from Satan or anybody.
- d) Sin is basically not giving what is due to God. In paying back to God, we owe him not only for the sin, but more than that sin.
- e) God is God, He can not let sin be unpunished.
- f) God lost out when angels in heaven fell with Satan. God wanted to restock heaven with humans. Therefore, "God cannot inflict punishment on all humans; at least some of them must be restored. Satisfaction has to be rendered on their behalf. (p.815)"
- g) Since humans sinned and gave themselves over to Satan, something big was necessary.
- h) Jesus, being God and sinless man, gave himself up to satisfy God's huge price for sin.

2. Why did God Atone for Mankind's Sin?

A. Love. John 3:16, "God so loved the world!"

God is love. But, God is also perfectly just. The Father will judge sin. Thus, He resolved justice with the love and Cross of Jesus Christ.

B. Propitiation:

Paul stated that through out the Old Testament, God covered sins, that is forgave sins. But He did not pay the penalty for sin. God passed over their sins.

"whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." Romans 3:25,26 (ESV)

Justice demands some form of payment for sin, just as a court will punish offenders.

Summery: It was God's Love & Justice that caused the life, death & resurrection of Jesus.

3. Could Mankind be Saved in any other way?

A. God didn't spare angels judgment:

"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;" 2 Peter 2:4 (NASB)

If God judged angels, He certainly did not have to save humans.

B. Jesus even asked if there were another way:

"And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." Matthew 26:39 (NASB)

- Jesus said it similarly to the two men on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24.

"And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" Luke 24:25,26 (NASB)

4. Jesus' Life and Death Satisfying / Atoning for Mankind's Sin.

A. Jesus' whole Life is apart of His atonement for our sin.

It wasn't just the Cross that paid the penalty of sin, but the whole of Jesus' life.
"Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered."
Hebrews 5:8 (NASB)

Jesus was tempted by the Devil forty days. (Matthew 4:1-11)
He wept over the death of Lazarus. John 11:35.

Jesus was tempted in every way that we have experienced:

"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB)

"A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;" Isaiah 53:3b (NASB)

B. Jesus' Physical Death on the Cross:

- Death on a Cross was through a very slow and painful asphyxiation.
- The person would have to uphold his chest with his arms or push up on the point of his nailed feet in order to breathe. Both arms and feet would be in searing pain.
- Pushing up and down for every breath would cause unbelievable pain in the victim's back that was lacerated through pre-cross flogging.
- Jesus bore on His body mankind's sin:

"Each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him." ... "Yet He Himself bore the sin of many." Isaiah 53:6,12 (NASB)

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29 (NASB)

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf," 2 Cor. 5:21a (NASB)

"Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many," Heb.9:28 (NASB)

"and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross," 1 Peter 2:24a (NASB)

- Jesus was temporarily abandoned by the Father:

"Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" Matthew 7:46 (NASB)

Words will fail to describe this horror. How can anyone adequately describe Jesus' love and connection with the Father before He came to earth as a baby? Further, what supernatural closeness did Jesus have with the Father when human? This cannot be overstated.

- Jesus faced all of the Father's wrath for our sins. This is staggering!

C. What does the blood of Jesus give us?

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God."

1 Peter 1:18,19 (NLT)

- A cleansed conscience:

"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Hebrews 9:14 (NASB)

- Access to worship and prayer:

“Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus.”
Hebrews 10:19 (NASB)

- Our future sin forgiven:

“but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7 (NASB)

“To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.”

Revelation 1:5 (NASB)

- Victory over the Accuser of the Brethren:

“for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.” Revelation 12:10,11 (NASB)

5. Does the Cross Apply for Everybody’s Sin or only a Few?

A. Careful in asking this question:

Asking this question will often lead unsaved precious awesome people to think that somehow, they or their loved ones are excluded from being saved. If Jesus only forgave those whom He “predestined” to be saved, then, maybe loved ones are hopeless. Maybe, I am hopeless. Yet, the Gospel is available to all peoples no matter who they are. Don’t confuse unsaved people needlessly.

B. The Cross only benefits those who Trust in Jesus:

But, when preaching the Gospel, we cannot only say that Jesus paid the penalty of sin without mentioning believing and trusting in Him as one’s Savior. Certainly, Jesus’ atonement only works for those who accept Him. But, in preaching this truth, be super clear that the Gospel is open to everybody!

The Doctrine of Man

1. The Biblical Origins of Man:

A) Humans are not created independent from God:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NIV)

"Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." 2 Corinthians 3:5 (NIV)

B) The Creator / Creation distinction:

a) Man is different from God: Gen.1:26, 27; Ps.8:5; etc....

"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness," Genesis 1:26 (NIV)

"What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor." Psalm 8:4,5 (NIV)

b) Worship God above anything even loving each other:
Matt.22:37-40; Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:27,28.

*"Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment."
Matthew 22:37,38 (NIV)*

C) Humans do have unique place in creation:

a) Man was created good with everything else! (Gen.1: 31)

b) Plus, we were created just lower than the angels. We were not pond scum evolving.

"You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor." Psalm 8:5 (NIV)

c) Created to have dominion over all creation.

"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:6 (NIV)

"You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas." Psalm 8:6-8 (NIV)

D) Man is limited: Not all powerful, all present, etc.... Heb.9:27 is the final reality.

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,”
Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

D) We are all descendants of Adam: The book of Genesis.

2. Man is Created in the Image of God:

A) **Gen.1:26,27**; Terms used are **צֶלֶם** (tselem) and **דְמוּת** (demuth) translated “image” and “likeness.” Likeness again used in verse 27.

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:26,27 (ESV)

B) **“He made them in the likeness of God...”** Gen.5:1,2

C) **Gen.9:6** Why is murder wrong? Because man is created in God’s image. This is post-Fall.

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.” Genesis 9:6 (ESV)

D) **Don’t curse, why?** Man was created in God’s image.

“With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.” James 3:9 (ESV)

3. Why is this Important?

- Man has inherent dignity:
This is why euthanasia, abortion, cloning, Fetus research, etc..., is wrong.
- How can we be responsible for all of God laws? We are only human, right?
- “I can’t work so hard; some people are born workers, not me” Why wrong?
Because, we are created in God’s image.

“These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.” 2 Peter 1:4 (NLT)

4. Know Jesus, Know Peace. No Jesus, No Peace: Why?

- a) Right knowledge of self; Ooh, ugly, I need God.
- b) To know self, first know God, then clearly see self. No brute facts. There are no facts outside of God’s existence. Everything good ultimately comes from God.
- c) Greeks thought Matter / Body is less perfect as Idea / Spirit.

Middle ages can see this in Monastic order: no sex, no food, die to oneself. Why?

- d) Notice, this was lost in the Renaissance which focused on the arts and self. The Reformation focused on God. They occurred roughly at the same time.
 - e) Reformers understood man's unsaved horrid predicament. Man is "almost totally destroyed." At the bottom of one's heart, you really don't want to know about God. Not that you can't but you won't. Calvin, "We have relics of the image of God." You can choose what you want to choose, but you will choose against God.
 - f) The Enlightenment didn't like this view of man's ability. They want man to be unlimited.
 - g) Post-modernism: The age we live in today. Enlightenment failed. At the end of two world wars and well over 100 million people died through such wars and diseases / famines associated with these wars, mankind cannot evolve into greatness / gods themselves. But Christianity was largely lost. Thus, mankind is not sure which god is right. Problem: If we contemplate a wrong god, we will surely have wrong views about ourselves.
- *Idealism*: Man is messed up, but can get better with education, science and theology. This eventually gave birth to socialistic state & communism. Society has the answers.
 - *Existentialism*: Final analysis - isn't how society is structured, it is up to the ind.'s choices. How is Existentialism (w/ skepticism for institutions) reigning today? Two basic categories of Existentialism: Atheistic and Religious Existentialists.
 - *Today's teens*: Rejects the Enlightenment, by human reason society can achieve social harmony. The answers to life must include the supernatural. But still plenty of self made millionaire materialism. Relics of Post Modernism.

5. Post Fall Condition of Man: Romans 7:5-9; 15-19:

1) Unsaved man trapped in his desire to sin.

"When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit. ⁷ Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." ⁸ But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. ⁹ At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, ¹⁰ and I died." Romans 7:5-9 (NLT)

- a) Our old sinful nature controls our sinful desires that rebel against God.
- b) The law actually further motivates us to push away from God and rebel even more.
- c) The law is good; it shows us what is right and wrong.
- d) But the law holds me accountable to God for my sins. Thus, I spiritually died.

2) Unsaved man is unable to stop doing what is wrong.

"I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. ¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway." Romans 7:15-19 (NLT)

- a) I agree that the law is proper, right and good.
- b) But, I am unable to stop doing what I know is wrong.

3) Man is doomed to sin and bondage.

"Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" Romans 7:24 (NLT)

6. How Does The Saint Apply This To His Fallen Nature?

1) Neuthetic Counseling:

- a) The problem is life is sin.
- b) We have the power to not be in bondage to sin anymore.

"We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin." Romans 6:6,7 (NLT)

- c) Therefore, don't do it. Give examples: Not walking by the mag. rack. Marriage counseling, Teenage rebellion, what about addictions?

2) Adoption Theology:

"Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children." Romans 8:12-16 (NLT)

- a) How are we to be freed from sin? Lead by the Spirit.
- b) God will help us!

"Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" Romans 8:32 (NLT)

- c) How many Christians know this yet struggle with sin? Why?
- d) How can we help them out of this human condition?

The Doctrine of Sin

1. Biblical Terms Describing What Sin Is:

A) Ignorance:

- a) Greek word “αγνοια” γιγνοσκο = to know w/ the prefix of a meaning not.
Hebrew word סגה (shagah).
- b) “ignorance” can mean just innocent unknowing. (Rom.1:13; 2 Cor.6:9; Gal.1:22)
- c) Yet at other times, it is punishable: *Eph.4:18; Heb.9:7*

B) Error: סגג and πλανομαι (planomai)

- a) סגה can mean to simply stray: sheep wondering *Ezek. 34:6*, drunk staggering *Is.28:7*.
- b) Willful error: 1 Sam.26:21 “Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly.”
- c) סגג means the natural condition to error: *Gen.6:3, Ps.119:67; Ecc.10:5; Job 12:16*
- d) πλανομαι: “Take heed that no one leads you astray” or “Do not be deceived.”
(Mark 13:5,6; 1 Cor.6:9; Gal.6:7; Thes.2:9-12; 1 John 3:7; 2 John 7)
- e) Jesus likened people to wondering sheep (Luke 15:1-7) & Heb.3:10.
God likens people to wonder like sheep.

C) Missing the Mark: חטא (Chata') & αμαρτανο

- a) αμαρτανο (amartano) used almost 300 times. Bible's common word for sin.
- b) Literal uses Judges 20:16 slingers not missing and Pro.19:2 “don't miss the way.”
- c) It is sin against God and blame is attached to it.

D) Transgression: Literally to “pass by” or to “cross over.”

- a) Esther 3:3 and *Num.14:41-42* “Why are you disobeying ...”
- b) Greek παραβασισ: Adam & Eve eating the forbidden fruit: *Rom.5:14; 1 Tim 2:14*.
- c) Plus “And where there is no law there is no transgression”.*Rom.4:15; Gal.3:19; Heb.2:2*

E) Rebellion:

- a) פסי root meaning is to rebel and often translated as transgress. 1 Kings 12:19, *Is.1:2*
- b) מרה *Is.1:20* and *Ezek.2:3*.

- c) N.T. rebellion and disobedience: John the Baptist warning Jews in Luke 1:17; Gentiles are against God in Rom. 1:30; Moses failed to enter the Holy Land in Heb.3:18, 4:6; “sons of disobedience” in Eph. 2:2; 5:6; Col.3:6)

F) Treachery: Breach of Trust or Treachery.

- a) מֵאֵל Achan’s mistake in Josh.7:1; 22:20.
- b) Other references: Lev.26:40; Ezek. 14:13; 15:8.
- c) בֵּאֵר occasionally used against God: Ps.78:57; Jer.3:10; Mal.2:11.

H) Abomination: What is considered abominable?

Idolatry (Deut.7:25.26), homosexuality (Lev.18:22; 20:13), cross dressing (Deut.22:5), sacrificing sons and daughters (Deut.12:31), sacrificing blemished animals (Deut.:17:1) and witchcraft (Deut.18:9-12).

I) Guilt:

- a) (מֵאֵדָסָו) Num.5:8 implies guilt “restitution made for the wrong”
- b) N.T. Matt.5:21,22 “who ever hates his brother is guilty”
- c) Guilty of profaning the body and blood of Christ 1 Cor.11:27. James 2:10 one sin and “guilty” of breaking all the Law.
- d) When we sin, we incur guilt.

2. What Sin is Not:

A) Just Sensuality:

- a) Schleiermacher states that sin is basically hedonism.
- b) But too simplistic. Sins are not just physical, but of one’s spirit as well. Gal.5:19-21.

B) Just Selfishness:

- a) Whether physical or of spirit. This is a great start.
- b) But people sacrifice themselves towards causes all the time that the cause is not Godly. Terrorism, Co-Dependency, etc....

C) Best: Displacement of God. Replace God for sinful lust, anger, rebellion, etc....

- a) In essence simply failure to let God be God.
- b) Putting anything before God. Idols.
- c) Why do people do this? Sin of selfishness and unbelief.

3. Source of Sin:

A) Animal Nature:

- a) Popularized from Darwin's Origin of the Species (1859). Therefore the Hebrew religion evolved from other more primitive religions. It wasn't from God.
- b) When our brain evolved to moral consciousness, then religion was created to fill that void. Again, the Jewish faith and Christianity are not from the Divine.
- c) What are the problems with this?

B) Anxiety of Finiteness:

- a) Since humans are finite, they naturally fear death.
- b) Denying one's finiteness leads one to murder, sin, etc... to secure his finiteness.
- c) What is wrong with this view?

C) Existential Estrangement:

- a) People become estranged from who they really are because of the fall.
- b) The human race is not at one time innocent and sinless then fallen, but we all live in an innocent / estranged existence at the same time. We are free to live in submission to God or rebel.
- c) What is wrong with this?

D) Economic Struggle:

- a) Root problem with man is not individual, but corporate. Marxism & South America.
- b) It is the inequality of power and property that cause wants and evil desires. Therefore, spread the wealth evenly and there will be no more sin.
- c) What is wrong with this view of man?

E) Individualism and Competitiveness:

- a) Everybody is born morally as a blank slate, no original sin.
- b) Sin is learned by others being competitive to destroying other people.
- c) Through education we can train people to not be evil.
- d) Problems: A crook in prison gets education to then steal companies.

4. Basic Definitions of Sin:

"For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world." 1 John 2:16 (NIV)

The Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, the Pride of Life (also see Genesis 3:6 & Matt 4:4-10)

A) The desire to enjoy things:

The desire to obtain things:

The desire to do things, to achieve:

B) Sin is not merely being corrupt and making mistakes often.

But sin is also the volitional violation of God's will.

5. The Results of Sin:

A) Divine Anger:

a) God hates wickedness:

"The arrogant cannot stand in your presence. You hate all who do wrong; ⁶ you destroy those who tell lies. The bloodthirsty and deceitful you, LORD, detest." Psalm 5:5,6 (NLT)

"There are six things the LORD hates — no, seven things he detests: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, ¹⁸ a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, ¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family."

Proverb 6:16,17 (NLT)

"Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal, I hated them there." Hosea 9:15 (NIV)

b) And the Wicked Hate God too:

"You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me," Exodus 20:5 (NIV)

"But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him." Deuteronomy 7:10 (NIV)

God punishes those who hate him and hate righteousness: Ps.18:40; 69:4; Pro.29:10.

c) God's anger אָנָפִּי (anaph) = "to snort." Used 180 times. Means nose, face & anger.

"The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are ^ban obstinate people. ¹⁰ "Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation." Exodus 32:10,11 (NIV)

d) In the New Testament, sinners are hostile to God:

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" Romans 5:8-10 (NIV)

"The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." Romans 8:7 (NIV)

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior." Colossians 1:21 (NIV)

B) Guilt: See previous notes.

Basically, guilt is the legal term of being held accountable for one's sin. Shame is the emotional consequence of wrong doing. Guilt is what we are in the courtroom of God.

C) Punishment:

a) God punishes sin:

"Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts, The Mighty One of Israel, declares, "Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries and avenge Myself on My foes." Isaiah 1:24 (NASB)

*"For the day of vengeance was in My heart, and My year of redemption has come."
Isaiah 63:4 (NASB)*

"For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes; and the sword will devour and be satiated and drink its fill of their blood; for there will be a slaughter for the Lord GOD of hosts, in the land of the north by the river Euphrates."

Jeremiah 46:10 (NASB)

b) Look at the flood:

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart." Genesis 6:5,6 (NASB)

c) God punishes to warn us also:

"be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹³ Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. ¹⁴ Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; ¹⁵ for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land." Deuteronomy 6:12-15 (NIV)

"Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day." Deuteronomy 8:11 (NIV)

"Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did. ¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.' ¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" Psalm 95:8-11 (NIV)

d) God will take vengeance in the N.T. also:

"Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord." Romans 12:19 (NIV)

*"For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
Hebrew 10:30,31 (NIV)*

e) God will use many different forms of punishment: sickness, famine, wars, etc....

f) God loves those who He disciplines: Prison Ministry.

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son." Hebrews 12:5,6 (NIV)

D) Death:

a) Physical death:

"but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Genesis 2:17 (NIV)

"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,"
Hebrews 9:27 (NASB)

b) Spiritual Death:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 (ESV)

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ..." Ephesians 2:1 (ESV)

c) Eternal Death: (Mark 9:44,46,48)

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.' ... ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:41,46 (ESV)

"Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:14,15 (ESV)

E) Enslavement: Slaves to sin: Rom.6:15-17, 8:2; Gal.5:19-21.

"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance." Romans 6:15-17 (NIV)

"The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV)

F) Self Deceit:

a) Blame shifting:

“Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Genesis 3:11,12 (ESV)

b) Wrong View of Self: and Speck of Sawdust VS plank (Matt.7:3).

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”
Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” Matthew 7:3 (ESV)

c) Insensitivity: Conscience seared (1 Tim.4:2; Rom.1:21).

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,” 1 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”
Romans 1:21 (ESV)

d) Insanity: Think about it, how insane is sin?

6. Magnitude of Sin: How big is this problem?

A) Old Testament:

a) God destroyed the world once with the flood because of the greatness of man’s sin.

“The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Genesis 6:5 (ESV)

b) Even though God is merciful, man’s heart is always drifting towards evil.

“The LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.” Genesis 8:21 (ESV)

c) All mankind has sinned and fallen short of God’s standard.

“The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. ² The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.”
Psalm 14:1-3 (ESV)

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23 (ESV)

d) Every O.T. major saint had serious sin problems: Abraham, Noah, Moses, David, etc....

e) Sin described as stemming from the heart:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"
Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

"They will be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ And I will give them one heart and one purpose: to worship me forever, for their own good and for the good of all their descendants. ⁴⁰ And I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good for them. I will put a desire in their hearts to worship me, and they will never leave me." Jeremiah 32:38-40 (NASB)

"And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh," Ezekiel 11:19 (ESV)

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV)

f) Also from the mind: כּוּסַד = "to plan."

"See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes." Ecclesiastes 7:29 (ESV)

"Again the LORD said to me, "A conspiracy exists among the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear my words. They have gone after other gods to serve them."
Jeremiah 11:9 (ESV)

"The LORD detests evil plans, but he delights in pure words." Proverbs 15:26 (NASB)

g) Born with a sinful depravity:

"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." ...
"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."
Psalm 51:5,10 (ESV)

B) New Testament:

a) All have sinned:

"None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." ¹³ "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive."
Romans 3:10-12 (ESV)

b) We zealously pursue sin: Eph.2:3; 4:18,19.

"... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."
Ephesians 2:3 (ESV)

“They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.”

Ephesians 4:18,19 (ESV)

c) Because of sin, we will die: Rom.5:12

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” Romans 5:12 (ESV)

d) Just entertaining sin in the mind is guilty of it in action:

Murder: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

Matthew 5:21,22 (ESV)

Adultery: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27,28 (ESV)

e) Our natural fallen nature loves to sin:

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV)

f) Fallen people can do good works, but that cannot get them into heaven.

C) Total Depravity:

a) The Body is affected by Sin:

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” Romans 5:12 (ESV)

“We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.” Romans 6:6 (ESV)

“For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.”

Romans 7:14 (ESV)

“But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” ... “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” Romans 8:10,13 (ESV)

“among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

Ephesians 2:3 (ESV)

*"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,
²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before,
that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV)

b) The Mind is effected:

"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Romans 1:21 (ESV)

"But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:14,15 (ESV)

"In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV)

c) Emotions:

"For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error." Romans 1:26,27 (ESV)

*"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,
²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before,
that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." ... "24 And those who
belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."*

Galatians 5:19-21,24 (ESV)

"For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people." 2 Timothy 3:2-4 (ESV)

d) Slave to Sin:

"But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed," Romans 6:17 (ESV)

e) Captive to do the will of the Devil:

... "correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will."

2 Timothy 2:25,26 (ESV)

“Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.” 1 Timothy 3:7 (ESV)

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV)

f) Even humanitarian giving has at its roots, improper motives:

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.” Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

*“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰ Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. ⁴¹ “Your approval means nothing to me, ⁴² because I know you don’t have God’s love within you.”
John 5:39-42 (NLT)*

g) Unable to save oneself:

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience ... ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:1,2,5 (ESV)

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” Colossians 2:13,14 (ESV)

7. Original Sin:

A) Man is born under the curse of Adam.

B) The death of all men is because of Adam’s sin.

C) But what about infants?

a) Jesus said those like children will enter Heaven.

“And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3 (NIV)

“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

b) King David said he would see his child in Heaven.

“But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” 2 Samuel 12:23 (NIV)

c) Little ones do not know good from bad:

“And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad—they will enter the land.” Deuteronomy 1:39 (NIV)

d) Isaiah talked about a boy not knowing between good and evil.

“He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right,¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.” Isaiah 7:15,16 (NIV)

e) Nineveh was described as not knowing between good and evil.

“And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?” Jonah 4:11 (NIV)

8. We Can “Cause” Others To Sin:

1) *“Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 8:12 (ESV)

a) What is the context of this passage?

b) Why was it wrong?

2) *“Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.”* Romans 14:13 (ESV)

a) What is the context? Also consider Rom.14:20,21.

b) Why is this wrong?

3) *“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”* Matthew 6:5,6 (ESV)

a) What is the context? Disciples were arguing over who is the greatest of the disciples.

b) Why is it wrong?

9. The Sin of the World:

A) The World Hates You:

a) Why does the world hate us?

*"The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil."
John 7:7 (NIV)*

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." John 15:18,19 (NIV)

b) Why is the world unable to comprehend things of Jesus?

*"Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe."
1 Corinthians 1:20,21 (NIV)*

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him." 1 Corinthians 1:27,28 (NIV)

B) Who controls the World:

a) The Devil controls this world:

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." Ephesians 2:1,2 (NIV)

"We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one." 1 John 5:18,19 (NIV)

"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out." John 12:31 (NIV)

b) Satan offered the whole world to Jesus.

"Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Matthew 4:8,9 (NIV)

C) Do not love the World:

a) If you love the world, you hate God!

“You adulterers! Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.” James 4:4 (NASB)

b) The world is sick:

“so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Philippians 2:15 (NIV)

The Holy Spirit:

(These notes are taken from Wayne Grudem's fabulous book, "Systematic Theology."
In chapter 30, you will find all these notes expanded and detailed.
None of these notes are original with me.)

Introduction:

A) Warning: He can be *Grieved*:

"But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them. 11 Then His people remembered the days of old, of Moses. Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in the midst of them, ... 13 who led them through the depths? Like the horse in the wilderness, they did not stumble; 14 as the cattle which go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. so You led Your people, to make for Yourself a glorious name." Isaiah 63:10-14 (NASB)

"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
Ephesians 4:30 (NASB)

B) The Work of the Holy Spirit:

The Father Planed God's Redemptive Plan.
Jesus Secured it – Cross,
Holy Spirit Completes this Plan Through the Church.

C) The 4 Major Rolls of the Holy Spirit:

- A) Gives Life and Power. Gives New Life & Power for Living.
- B) Purifies our Lives: Sanctification and Daily Holiness.
- C) Reveals Truth & Guidance. Through the Scriptures, Prophecy, Conviction of Sin.
- D) Unifies Believers with God and with Each Other.

1. The Holy Spirit Gives Life & Power:

- Through the Spirit comes life.

"You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth."
Psalm 104:30 (NKJV)

- When God's Spirit is removed or moves, it brings forth death.

"If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, 15 All flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust." Job 34:14-15 NKJV

- Where in your life do you need resurrected to life, new life?
Marriage, Other Family Relationships, Job, Finances,?

A) The Holy Spirit giving Power in the Old Testament:

a) Rulers:

Joshua: *“And the Lord said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit,” Numbers 27:18 (NKJV)
“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom,”
Deut. 34:9 (NKJV)*

Judges in Israel

Othniel: *“The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, ...” Judges 3:10 (NKJV)*
Gideon: *“But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, ...” Judges 6:34 (NKJV)*
Samson: *“And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him,” Judges 13:25*

King Saul *“Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was greatly aroused.” 1 Samuel 11:6 (NKJV)*

King David: *“the Spirit of the Lord came upon David” 1 Samuel 16:13 (NKJV)*

Bottom Line: When the Holy Spirit comes on you, you get power!

Special Note: Theologian Wayne Grudem observed many stating that Jesus said the Holy Spirit was not at work in the Old Testament. They cite John 14:17 “he dwells with you, and will be in you.” and John 7:39 “as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” But that is incorrect. From the above scriptures, the Spirit was commonly active in the Old Testament. For further examples: Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:2; 3:4) Daniel (Daniel 4:8,9, 18; 5:11) and Micah (Micah 3:8).

b) Old Testament Looked forward to a more fullness or manifestation of the Spirit.

“Because the palaces will be forsaken, The bustling city will be deserted. ... 15 Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest.” Isaiah 32:14-16 (NKJV)

The prophet Joel predicted this outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” Joel 2:28,29 (NKJV)

B. The Holy Spirit Giving Power in the New Testament:

a) Jesus was first seen with the Power of the Holy Spirit!

Jesus becoming human by the Power of the Holy Spirit:

*“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”
Matthew 1:18 (NKJV)*

Baptism: (Jesus was Filled with the Holy Spirit)

“And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.” John 1:32 (NKJV)

Tempted by the Devil: (Empowered with the Holy Spirit)

“Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,” Luke 4:1 (NKJV)

Began His Ministry: (Anointed with the Holy Spirit)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, ...19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18,19 (NKJV)

b) Jesus commanded the disciples to wait for this Power:

*“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.”
Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

c) Disciples / the Church being Baptized with the Holy Spirit:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. Acts 2:17 (NKJV)

d) The Disciples powerfully acted while “filled with the Spirit.”

*“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: ‘Rulers and elders of the people!’
Acts 4:8 (NIV)*

“After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31 (NKJV)

“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” 1 Thessalonians 1:5 (NKJV)

“...but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.” 1 Peter 1:12 (NKJV)

e) Holy Spirit gives power through the “Gifts of the Spirit.”

This topic is too large to cover in detail here. Briefly, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit gave spiritual gifts to the church to empower her to make disciples of all nations. Such gifts can be found in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 & Ephesians 4:11.

f) The Spirit gives power to pray:

“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.” Romans 8:26 (NLT)

g) The Spirit gives power over the Demonic:

Jesus said it was the Holy Spirit’s power:

“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Matthew 12:28 (NASB)

The Word of God & the Holy Spirit’s power to defeat the devil.

“..., and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV)

2. Purifies our Lives: Sanctification & Daily Holiness:

A) Our “sanctification.” One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to make us holy.

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”

Titus 3:5 (NASB)

“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

By faith in Jesus are we saved and made justified before God.

It is the Holy Spirit who spiritually washes us pure before God.

B) “The Fruit of the Spirit.” The Spirit also transforms our character to be like Jesus.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

C) It is by the Spirit we can put to death our old sinful bad habits.

“For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.” Romans 8:13 (NLT)

“Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.” Romans 7:6 (NLT)

In Review: The Spirit makes us holy to God for salvation. Because God is holy, so must we. (Matt.5:48, Heb.12:14) And this is done when we believe in Jesus. But also, the Spirit transforms us day to day to become more like Jesus in our character. He gives us the power and conviction to grow spiritually.

3. The Holy Spirit Reveals Truth & Guides Us:

A) The Spirit Guides & Directs God People.

a) The Holy Spirit giving clear directional guidance to people.

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” Acts 8:29 (NKJV)

“While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are seeking you. 20 Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.” Acts 10:19-20 (NKJV)

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Acts 13:2 (NKJV)

b) At times the Holy Spirit transported people!

“Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus.” Acts 8:39-40 (NKJV) (Also so Ezekiel 11:1 & Ezekiel 43:5)

c) Being led by the Spirit: The Spirit guides us daily.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14 (NKJV)

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Galatians 5:18 (NKJV)

“that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:4 (NKJV)

The Scriptures make a strong point to walk not according to sinful desires that come from our heart. Rather, we are to be in constant fellowship with the Spirit. When “walking” with the Spirit, having our minds in touch with God, the Spirit will prompt us to not obey sinful desires. The Spirit guides us daily in this way. Again, this is the Spirit’s job.

d) At times, the Spirit gives strong impressions to guide people.

“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.” Acts 16:6-7 (NKJV)

The Bible does not tell us how the Spirit specifically forbade them to travel to inner Turkey or to travel to Jerusalem. Compelled is a good estimate of what they divinely felt.

“And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.” Acts 20:22-23 (NKJV)

B) The Spirit Teaches and Illumines:

a) The Spirit's primary way to teach us truth is through the Bible.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26 (NKJV)

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." John 16:13 (NKJV)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16,17 (NASB)

b) The Holy Spirit prophetically reveals future events:

Simeon, that he would not die until he saw the Messiah.

"And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Luke 2:26 (NASB)

Agabus prophesied that Jerusalem would suffer a famine.

"One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.)" Acts 11:28 (NLT)

The Apostle Paul would be taken captive:

"When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" Acts 21:11 (NKJV)

c) Jesus taught us that the Holy Spirit will teach us of things to come!

"Again, this is what Jesus said about the Spirit. He will remind us of what Jesus taught us in the Bible, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." John 16:13 (ESV)

d) Spiritual truths are only understood when the Holy Spirit helps us to understand.

"And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us." 1 Corinthians 2:12 (NLT)

"But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means." 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NLT)

e) God's people are convinced that the Bible is God's words:

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27 (NJKV)

4. Unifies Believes with God and with each other:

1) The Spirit is attributed to the work of blessing the fellowship between believers.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NASB)

2) Paul clearly stated that the Spirit gives us fellowship with one another.

*"Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."
Philippians 2:1,2 (NASB)*

3) The Spirit gives us unity and access to the Father.

*"for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father." ... "22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."
Ephesians 2:18, 22 (NASB)*

4) We must be diligent to maintain this work of unity given to us by the Spirit.

"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3 (NASB)

5) The use of spiritual gifts are meant to unify the body for the "common good!"

"But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NASB)