SHEKINAH

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

TEACHING COLLECTION

Visual Bible studies for the young adults ministry

SHEKINAH EVANGELISTIC CHURCH

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GONE FISHING

EVANGELISM FIELD GUIDE

A SIMPLE CONVERSATION THAT OPENS ETERNAL DOORS

YOUR TACKLE: 3 QUESTIONS, 1 CONVERSATION, ETERNAL IMPACT.

THE 3-QUESTION HOOK

ASK. LISTEN. KEEP MOVING.

1 INHERITED CONDITION

"True or false — if poor, unemployed parents get evicted and nobody steps in to help, the kid ends up homeless too?"



SIN IS INHERITED

2 NEED FOR RESCUE

"True or false — nobody has ever rescued themselves from drowning with zero outside help?"



WE NEED A SAVIOR

3 WHO SETS THE TERMS?

"True or false — in any real transaction, the seller sets the price, not the buyer?"



GOD SETS THE PRICE

TOOLS FOR FISHERS OF MEN
MATTHEW 4:19

CAST



"Mind if I ask you an empirical question real quick?"

HOOK



Ask the 3 questions. Get their true/false answers.

REEL



"You actually just proved you have a biblical worldview."

CONNECT



Sin → Savior → God's Terms (See Key Card)

LAND



"Does any of that make sense to you?" "Have you ever thought about giving your life to Jesus?"

THE GOAL ISN'T WINNING AN ARGUMENT.
IT'S OPENING A GOSPEL CONVERSATION.

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GONE FISHING

KEY CARD

KNOW THE CONNECTION. SHARE THE GOSPEL.

1 INHERITED CONDITION



We inherit a condition we didn't choose.

Sin = rebelling against God. We're born with a desire to rebel. It's in our nature.

Psalm 51:5
"Surely I was sinful at birth..."

2 NEED FOR RESCUE



We cannot save ourselves from sin and death.

God's penalty for sin is death. We are like drowning people—incapable of self-rescue.

Romans 3:23
"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23
"The wages of sin is death..."

3 GOD SETS THE PRICE



God created life, breath, existence—and He sets the terms of reconciliation.

The price He set is the sacrifice and lordship of His Son, Jesus Christ.

John 3:16
"God so loved the world..." that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

THE REVEAL — PUTTING IT TOGETHER

You agreed: children inherit their parents' condition, drowning people need rescuers, and owners set the price. The Bible says we inherit a sinful nature, we cannot save ourselves from its penalty, and God Himself set the price: the life and lordship of Jesus. It would be inconsistent to accept these truths naturally but reject them spiritually.



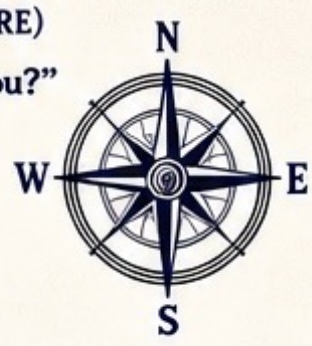
THE TURN

- None of us are promised tomorrow.
- The same God who set these rules says you will stand before Him as your Judge.
- You will have to show whether or not what you owe for rebelling against Him is paid.

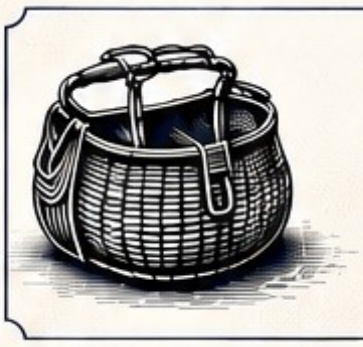
THE INVITATION

(CONVERSATION, NOT PRESSURE)

- "Does any of that make sense to you?" (Let them talk.)
- Then ask: "Have you ever thought about giving your life to Jesus — like actually asking Him for a personal relationship?"



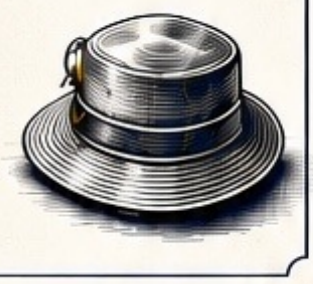
FISHERMAN'S RULES



DON'T PREACH THE QUESTIONS.
Ask. Listen. Keep moving.

DON'T ARGUE THE REVEAL.
Show the connection. Trust the Spirit.

DON'T FORCE THE LANDING.
Invite the conversation. Pray. Be ready.



"I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN." MATTHEW 4:19

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COVENANT PROMISES

Trace the Promise

ROMANS 8:28

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD

…for those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

TRACE THE KEY PHRASE

0 **ROMANS 8:28**
"…for those who love God…"

The promise is incredible. But to whom is it spoken?

1 **JOHN 14:21**
Who loves God?

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me."

2 **MATTHEW 22:37-40**
What are His commandments?

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

3 **1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8**
What does love look like?

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud… Love never fails.

DESTINATION:
The Promise in Full View



ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD
ROMANS 8:28

CARTOGRAPHER'S NOTES

Many quote the destination while overlooking the path.

Scripture defines its own terms through later revelation.

The promise is sure. The path is given. Trace it well.

COMPASS OF LOVE



CONTINUE THE JOURNEY →

Your Bible is the map. Scripture is the guide. God is faithful.

FOLLOW THE SCRIPTURE. UNDERSTAND THE PROMISE. TREASURE THE GOD WHO KEEPS IT.

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COVENANT PROMISES

Trace the Promise

ALL ROADS LEAD TO "OBEY HIM"

OBEY HIM IS THE DESTINATION, NOT A RECOMMENDATION.

"He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."
— HEBREWS 5:9

THREE ROADS. ONE DESTINATION.

1 TO KNOW HIM

To know Him is to obey Him.

JOHN 10:14
"I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep, and am known by My own."

1 JOHN 2:3–4
"By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments."

2 TO LOVE HIM

To love Him is to obey Him.

JAMES 1:12
"... he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

JOHN 14:21
"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me."

3 TO BE IN HIM

To be in Him is to obey Him.

ROMANS 8:1
"There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

1 JOHN 2:5
"Whoever keeps His word... by this we know that we are in Him."

THE GATEKEEPER

WITHOUT HOLINESS NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD.

HEBREWS 12:14

OBEY HIM

THE DESTINATION

HEBREWS 5:9

FURTHER SCRIPTURE*

- Genesis 22:1–18
- James 2:5
- 1 Corinthians 13

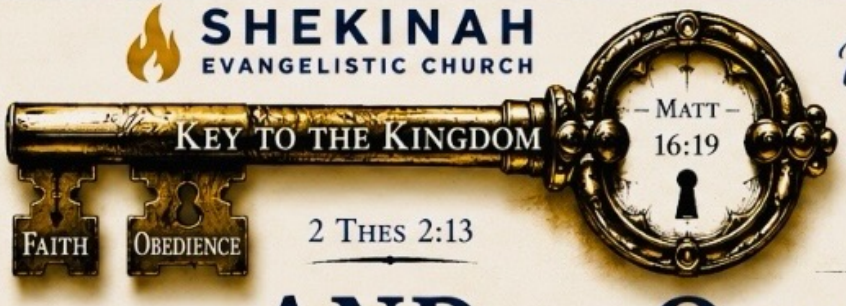
* *Supporting scriptures that further illuminate the middle road of love.*

FOLLOW THE SCRIPTURE. UNDERSTAND THE PROMISE. TREASURE THE GOD WHO KEEPS IT.

★ 1 Co 9:27
2 Co 13:5
Jn 10:14

Only Both Unlock the Door!!

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2 Thes 2:13

Without Both the Key Won't Work!!

★ Lu 9:23
Lu 14:27
1 Jn 2:3

Faith and Obedience

Faith

- Ro 8:1 *"No condemnation for those IN Jesus"*
- Acts 16:29–31 *"Believe on the Lord Jesus"*
- Ro 10:9–10 *"Confess w/ your mouth the Lord Jesus"*
- Titus 3:4–5 *"When love of God.. appeared.. He saved us"*
- Ja 1:12 *"Receive the crown of life promised to those who love Him"*
- Rev 3:5 (20:15) *"He who overcomes.. I wont blot out his name from book"*
- Ro 5:1 *"Having been justified by faith we have peace."*

"Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
— Luke 6:46 —

Faith without obedience is dead.
Obedience without faith is empty.

BUT TOGETHER...
they open the Kingdom.

Obedience

- 1 Jn 2:5 *"Whoever keeps His word are IN Him"*
- Ja 2:18–20 *"Even demons believe... faith w/out works is DEAD"*
- Titus 1:16 *"They profess God but in works they deny Him"*
- 1 Cor 1:18 *"...the cross, to us who are being saved is the power of God, but to those who are perishing, foolishness"*
- Jn 14:21 *"He who keeps my commandments loves me"*
- Heb 5:8–9 *"He became eternal salvation to all who obey Him"*
- Ja 2:24 *"Man is justified by works and not by faith ONLY"*

Conclusion



Salvation "Appeared" (Tit 3:4) by grace through Faith,
but Remains ("to us who are being saved") (1Cor 1:18; Heb 8:9;10; 10:4)
by our works, NOT "works of the law" (Gal 2:16, Col. 2:16)
but "works of righteousness which we Have done."

Jesus's commandment
is to REPENT
(Mk 1:14–15; Lu 13:1–5;
Acts 2:36–38; 3:19–21)



The Scriptures Found in:

Matt 7:21–23 | Matt 13:36–42 | 1Jn 3:4 | 1Cor 6:9–11 | Gal 5:19–21 | Eph 5:1–7 | Heb 10:26–31 | 2Pe 2:20–21 — Can best be summarized by Heb 12:14 —

"Pursue peace with all people, and Holiness, without which No one will see the Lord," by obeying these we truly make Jesus Lord and Savior.

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BASIS: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:20 – "FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD BUT IN

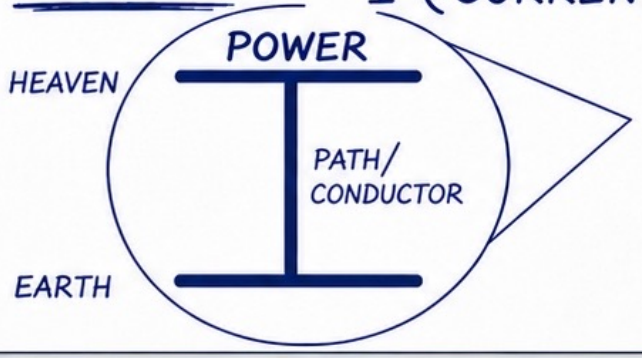
POWER"

ROMANS 1:20 – "FOR SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD HIS INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES ARE CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE..."

LAWS & ELEMENTS:

- **ELECTRICITY ("POWER")** ALWAYS SEEKS THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE TO THE GROUND
- **ELECTRONS** = THE TINY PARTICLES WITHIN ELECTRICITY THAT MOVE THROUGH ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS. THEY ONLY FLOW IF THEY HAVE SOMEWHERE TO GO & VOLTAGE PUSHES THEM
- **CONDUCTOR** = CARRIES/CHANNELS ELECTRICITY
- **INSULATOR** = WRAPS CONDUCTOR, PREVENTS SHORT CIRCUIT, SERIOUS (INJURY & DEATH
- **VOLTAGE** = PUSHING FORCE
- **CURRENT** = AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY PASSING THROUGH A CERTAIN POINT
- **RESISTANCE** = THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE CONDUCTOR RESISTS THE POWER
  - > EVERY/EVEN THE BEST CONDUCTOR PUTS UP SOME RESISTANCE
  - > THE LONGER THE CONDUCTOR, THE GREATER THE RESISTANCE
  - > THE SMALLER THE CONDUCTOR, THE GREATER THE RESISTANCE
  - > THE GREATER THE RESISTANCE, THE MORE VOLTAGE NEEDED TO PUSH THE POWER THROUGH

FORMULA: I (CURRENT) = V (VOLTAGE) DIVIDED BY R (RESISTANCE)



$$I = \frac{V}{R}$$

(GREATER THE FORCE/ LESS THE RESISTANCE = GREATER AMOUNT OF **POWER!**)

NATURAL ⟷ SHEKINAH EVANGELISTIC CHURCH ⟷ SPIRITUAL

RO 1:20

CURRENT	=	VOLTAGE / RESISTANCE	⟷	CHANNELING GOD'S POWER	=	ANSWERED PRAYER / UNBELIEF / DISOBEDIENCE / PRIDE
VOLTAGE	=	FORCE	⟷	ANSWERED PRAYER	=	1 JOHN 3:20-22
FORCE	=	MASS X ACCELERATION*	⟷	1 JOHN 3:20-22	=	JAMES 5:16

*Because electrical force involves more complex principles, we've borrowed a simpler example from mechanical force to illustrate the parallel relationships and underlying structural similarities between the two systems. Different systems, same Architect.

SPIRITUAL FOOD

- (WATER)
- (BREAD)
- (MEAT)
- (WINE)

- JN 4:14; 7:38-39; 14:26
- MT 4:4; JN 1:1, 14; 6:35
- JN 4:34
- PS 104:14-15; GN 1:27, HEB 13:15-16

"EFFECTIVE" (MASS)
- PRAYER
- WORD
- WALK
- PRAISE

X

"FERVENT" (ACCELERATION)
- FOCUS
- INTENSITY
- DETERMINATION
- DURATION

1 COR 9:27
2 TIM 1:16
PHP 3:8-9
HEB 10:35-36

CONDUCTOR ⟷ **SPIRIT MAN** =

GALATIANS 5:16-17
GALATIANS 6:7-8
JOHN 15:1-5

$$I = \frac{V}{R}$$

⟷ **CHANNELING GOD'S POWER** =

ANSWERED PRAYER (EFFECTIVE, FERVENT)

- PRAYER
- WORD
- WALK
- PRAISE

X

- FOCUS
- INTENSITY
- DETERMINATION
- DURATION

RESISTANCE

HOW TO REMOVE

UNBELIEF / DISOBEDIENCE / PRIDE

			UNBELIEF	DISOBEDIENCE	PRIDE
LONG CONDUCTOR ⟷	DISTANCE/ TIME AWAY	→ HEB 11:6; JA 4:7-8 →	JA 1:6-7 ↓ MT 17:20-21 RO 10:17	IS 59:1-2 ↓ LK 17:6 RO 13:14	JA 4:6 ↓ 1 PE 5:6 PHP 2:5-7
SMALL CONDUCTOR ⟷	WEAKNESS/ DEFICIENT MASS	→ COL 3:16; 2 TIM 2:15 →			
INSULATOR ⟷	LOVE/HUMILITY	→ 1 CO 13:1-3/IS 57:15 →			

PG 2 OF 2

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HOW A PUPPY KILLS A LION

IT'S A MATTER OF PROVISIONS



THE SPIRIT MAN
– THE NEW NATURE –
GALATIANS 5:16

THE FLESH
THE OLD NATURE
GALATIANS 5:16



THE SPIRIT MAN'S PROVISIONS
SPIRITUAL FODD FOR GROWTH AND STRENGTH

WATER	BREAD	MEAT	WINE
John 4:14; John 7:38-39; John 14:26	Matthew 4:4; John 1:1, 14; John 6:35	John 4:34 (KJV)	Psalm 104:14-15; Genesis 1:27; Hebrews 13:15-16

FEED THE PUPPY
GALATIANS 5:16
"Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

STARVE THE LION
ROMANS 13:14
"Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

"The main and principal point in war is to secure plenty of provisions and to destroy the enemy by famine."
— Vegetius, Roman military historian

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THE VINE & THE TRELLIS

LIFTED TO BEAR FRUIT

THE NATURAL ILLUSTATION

VINE ON THE GROUND

THE HAZARDS



Without support, the vine sprawls across the ground, exposing its growth and fruit to unfavorable conditions.

GROUND CONTACT	Fruit and foliage remain closer to damp soil, splash, and decay organisms.
POOR CIRCULATION	Crowded leaves retain humidity and dry more slowly, increasing disease risk.
SELF-SHADING	Tangled foliage blocks light from reaching parts of the canopy.
DISORDERED GROWTH	Overlapping shoots make training, inspection, and maintenance difficult.
EXPOSED FRUIT	Low-hanging clusters are harder to protect, inspect, and harvest.

SCRIPTURAL SPINE

JOHN 15:1–5
"The Vine, abiding, and fruitfulness."

HEBREWS 12:11
"Discipline yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:27
"The necessity of self-discipline."

VINE ON THE TRELLIS

THE ADVANTAGES



The trellis elevates and organizes the vine, improving the conditions for healthy growth and productive cultivation.

ELEVATION	Lifts the shoots and fruit away from direct soil contact.
AIR CIRCULATION	Allows foliage to dry faster and reduces conditions favorable to many fungal diseases.
LIGHT EXPOSURE	Spreads the canopy so sunlight reaches more leaves and developing clusters.
DIRECTED GROWTH	Supports and positions shoots for easier training and maintenance.
FRUIT ACCESSIBILITY	Makes clusters easier to monitor, protect, and harvest.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22–23

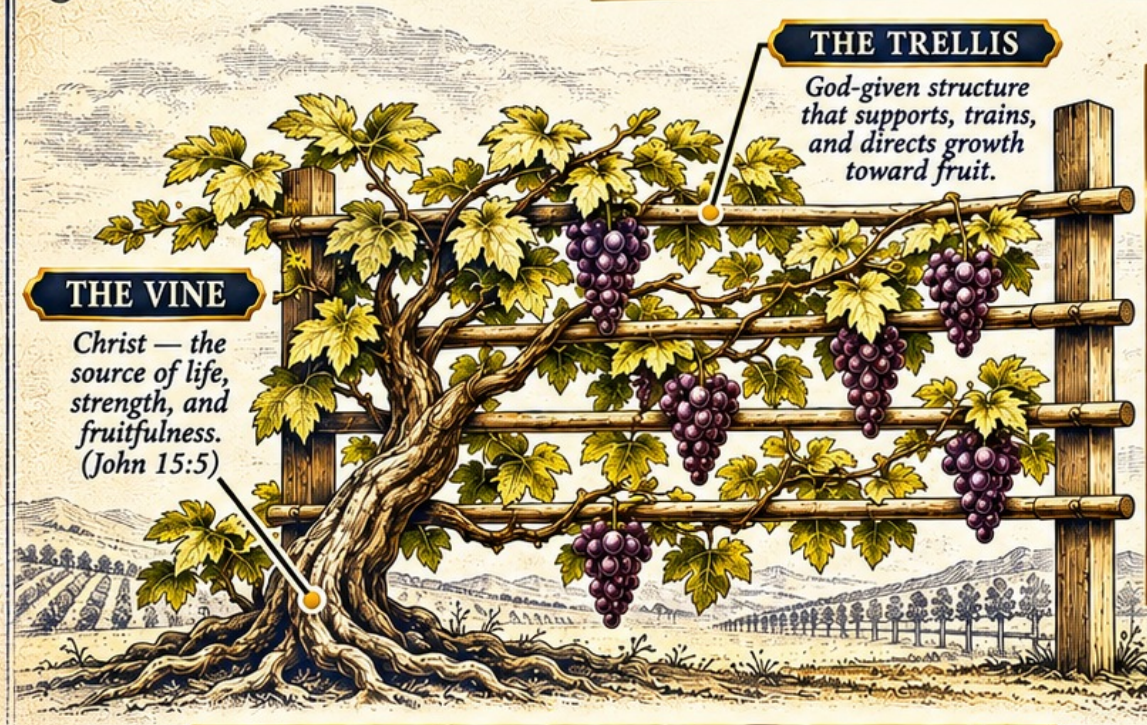
LOVE · JOY · PEACE · PATIENCE · KINDNESS · GOODNESS · FAITHFULNESS · GENTLENESS · SELF-CONTROL

A vine left on the ground survives poorly.
A vine lifted, trained, and pruned can bear fruit for generations.

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THE VINE & THE TRELLIS

THE SPIRITUAL APPLICATION



THE TRELLIS IN OUR DAILY LIFE

A practical structure that keeps us lifted, ordered, and productive in Christ.

THE WORD	*Gives truth, direction, and alignment. (John 8:31–32)*
PRAYER	*Maintains communion, dependence, and strength. (Phil. 4:6–7)*
OBEDIENCE	*Positions us in God's will and releases His life and power. (John 14:21)*
DISCIPLINE	*Brings consistency, restraint, and faithfulness. (1 Cor. 9:27)*
ACCOUNTABILITY & ORDER	*Provides support, correction, and continued growth. (Prov. 27:17)*

THE RESULT: FRUITFULNESS

ABIDING IN THE VINE *(John 15:4–5)* › **SUPPORTED BY THE TRELLIS** *(Structure, Discipline, and Obedience)* › **A FRUITFUL AND STABLE LIFE** *(Gal. 5:22–23)*

THE FRUIT

GALATIANS 5:22–23

LOVE • JOY • PEACE • PATIENCE
KINDNESS • GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS • GENTLENESS • SELF-CONTROL

The trellis does not give life — the Vine does.
It provides the structure and order for the life of Christ to grow and bear fruit in us.

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DIFFERENT KINDS: MUSTARD-SEED FAITH

THE SEED THE WORLD REGARDS AS LEAST



THE MUSTARD SEED

Renowned for its smallness.



THE OUTCOME

Growing into something dramatically greater than its beginning.

SCRIPTURAL SPINE

MATTHEW 17:20
MARK 4:30–32
HEBREWS 11:1
1 CORINTHIANS 1:18
MARK 11:22–23

NOT THE SAME THING

LITTLE FAITH — *A deficiency Jesus repeatedly rebuked.*

MUSTARD-SEED FAITH — *A kind of faith Jesus commends and illustrates as effective.*

If Jesus repeatedly rebuked "little faith," why would He use something renowned for its smallness to illustrate mountain-moving faith?

OPERATING SYSTEMS

MEN LIVE BY DIFFERENT SEEDS

SIGHT	*What is seen*
CALCULATION	*What can be measured*
CONTROL	*What can be menaged*
WEALTH	*What can be acquired*
HUMAN WISDOM	*What seems logical*
SELF-RELIANCE	*What I can do*
FAITH IN GOD	*What He has said*

EACH SEED PRODUCES ITS OWN YIELD.

Little faith is repeatedly rebuked. Mustard-seed faith is commended.
Therefore the mustard seed does not merely represent small quantity.
It represents faith that appears small to men, yet carries extraordinary potential in God.

THE MUSTARD-SEED PRINCIPLE

- It appears insignificant.
- Its appearance does not reveal its capacity.
- Its outcome is disproportionate to its beginning.
- The point is not merely "small thing → big thing."
- The deeper point is: apparent insignificance does not reveal actual potential.

THE WORLD'S MEASURE



- The natural man measures by sight.
- Faith rests on what cannot yet be seen.
- What the world least regards may possess the greatest divine capacity.

KEY SCRIPTURES

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." — *Hebrews 11:1*

"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing..." — *1 Corinthians 1:18*

The seed is small in the world's estimation. Its potential is not.

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THIS KIND: A CLOSER LOOK

Kinds of Unbelief — and Why Prayer and Fasting Matter

THE TWO PRIMARY KINDS

CAN HE?

Doubting God's ability. This asks whether He is able at all.

WILL HE?

Doubting God's willingness. This asks whether He will move for me.

"I know He can, but I'm not sure He will" is unbelief wearing faith's clothing.



PRAYER AND FASTING DO NOT... THEY CONDITION THE BELIEVER.

DO NOT

- *Increase God's power*
- *Make Christ more authoritative*
- *Change God's willingness*

THEY DO

- *Weaken the flesh's resistance*
- *Strengthen the spirit man*
- *Make more room for the Spirit's fruit*
- *Help faith flow where fear was resisting*

WHY "WILL HE?" IS THE LIVE ISSUE

- *The disciples had already been given authority over unclean spirits. — Matthew 10:1*
- *They had already cast out many demons. — Mark 6:13*
- *So the practical issue was not "Can He?" but "Will He?"*
- *That fear often hides behind past failure, fear, shame, or self-consciousness.*

SCRIPTURAL LOGIC

- *Flesh and Spirit oppose one another. — Galatians 5:17*
- *Through the Spirit we put the flesh to death. — Romans 8:13*
- *The fruit of the Spirit includes faith. — Galatians 5:22–23*
- *Love "believeth all things." — 1 Corinthians 13:7*

PRAYER + FASTING → **WEAKEN FLESH** → **LESS RESISTANCE** → **STRONGER SPIRIT MAN** → **GREATER ROOM FOR GOD'S POWER TO FLOW THROUGH US**

Prayer and fasting do not change God; they condition the believer.

THE NAMED CURE

Perfect love casts out fear.
— 1 John 4:18

The fear behind "Will He?" is not removed by argument alone, but by the Spirit's fruit growing strong enough to displace it.

OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF UNBELIEF

- *Fear*
- *Anxiety*
- *Doubt*
- *Divided judgment*
- *Failure to fully trust God*

These may differ in form, but all resist the flow of faith.

SCRIPTURAL SPINE

MATTHEW 17:20–21

MARK 9:29

GALATIANS 5:17

GALATIANS 5:22–23

ROMANS 8:13

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

1 JOHN 4:18

PRAYER AND FASTING DO NOT CHANGE GOD. THEY CONDITION THE BELIEVER.

Weakening the flesh. Strengthening the spirit man. Reducing resistance to His power.

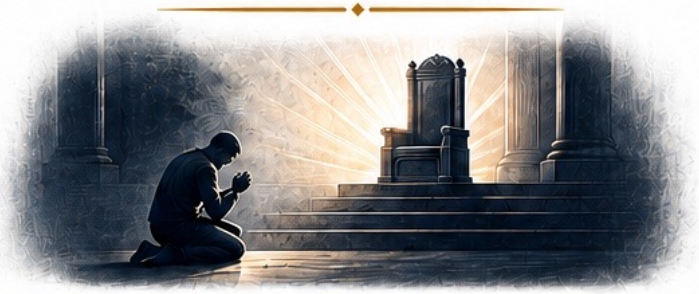
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TWO WAYS TO PRAY

The Difference Between Prayers for Mercy and Prayers Claiming His Promise

MERCY

"God, have mercy..."



> *"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."*
> — ROMANS 9:15

We come empty-handed.
We have nothing to claim except His compassion.

We appeal to His compassion.
We ask from a place of need and desperation.

The answer is an undeserved gift.
Completely dependent on His mercy and grace.

REAL. HONEST. NEEDED.
Mercy is part of God's heart toward the desperate.

TWO DIFFERENT APPROACHES.

TWO DIFFERENT FOUNDATIONS.

TWO VERY DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS.

MERCY ASKS.
COVENANT CLAIMS.

COVENANT

"Whatever you ask..."



- *"Ask anything in My name, and I will do it."* — JOHN 14:14
- *"Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you."* — JOHN 16:23
- *"If you ask anything according to His will, He hears you."* — 1 JOHN 5:14
- *"Whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive it, and it will be yours."* — MARK 11:24
- *"If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them."* — MATTHEW 18:19

We stand on His Word.
His promises are our legal right in Christ.

We ask according to His covenant.
We align our requests with His will and His ways.

The answer rests on His faithfulness.
Not because we deserve it, but because He promised it.

BOLD. SCRIPTURAL. GUARANTEED.
Promises are yes and amen in Christ (2 CORINTHIANS 1:20).

HOW CAN JESUS PROMISE "WHATEVER YOU ASK"... WITHOUT LYING?

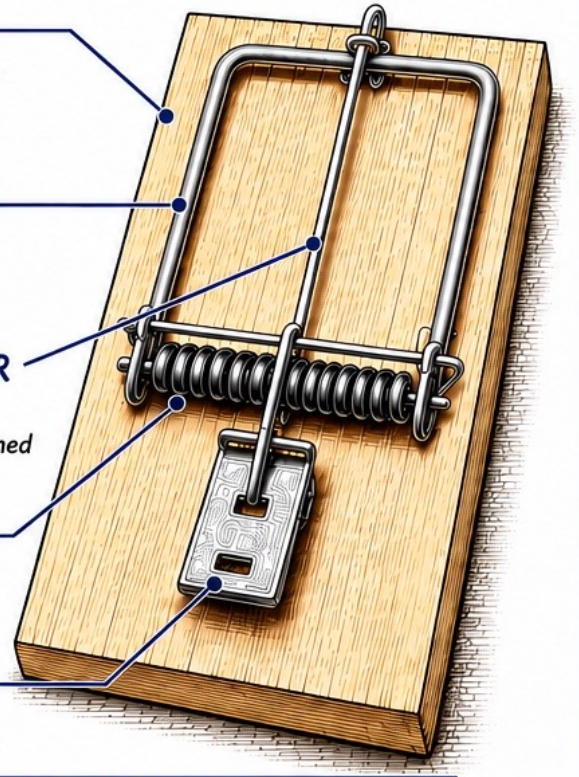
→ TURN THE PAGE. ←

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THE "WHATEVER YOU ASK" MOUSETRAP

NATURAL

THE MOUSETRAP – A NATURAL MECHANISM



1. **BASE** — *Foundation the entire trap attaches to.*
2. **HAMMER** — *Delivers striking force.*
3. **HOLDING BAR** — *Keeps the mechanism aligned and restrained.*
4. **SPRING** — *Stores tension until release.*
5. **TRIGGER** — *Initiates activation.*

REMOVE ONE PART → THE TRAP CANNOT FUNCTION.

⟷

ROMANS 1:20

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made..."

BOTH SYSTEMS FUNCTION THROUGH INTERDEPENDENT COMPONENTS.

THE PRINCIPLE IS THE SAME. THE APPLICATION IS ETERNAL.

SPIRITUAL

THE PRAYER SYSTEM – A SPIRITUAL MECHANISM

1. **GOD'S WILL** = *FOUNDATION* — *Everything must align with His perfect will.* (1 JOHN 5:14–15)
2. **FAITH** = *STRIKING FORCE* — *Believing God will do what He promised.* (MARK 11:24)
3. **OBEDIENCE** = *ALIGNMENT / POSITIONING* — *Keeping His commands and pleasing Him.* (1 JOHN 3:22)
4. **ENDURANCE** = *STORED TENSION* — *Remaining steadfast; not growing weary; waiting in faith.* (HEB. 10:36) (GAL. 6:9)
5. **HUMILITY** = *RELEASE POINT* — *Yielding to God, not resisting Him.* (JAMES 4:6–10)

REMOVE ONE COMPONENT → GUARANTEED PRAYER CANNOT ACTIVATE.

THE POWER IS IN THE COMPLETE DESIGN.

REMOVE ONE PART → NO RELEASE.

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ENDURANCE

THROUGH THE FIRE

REMAINING FAITHFUL WHEN LIFE GETS DIFFICULT, OPPOSITION COMES, TESTING INCREASES, AND THE PROMISE TARRIES.

FIVE SCRIPTURAL PILLARS

A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR ENDURANCE

1 — MATTHEW 24:13

ENDURE TO THE END

Endurance is necessary.

2 — JOHN 16:33

EXPECT TRIBULATION

Trouble is inevitable, but Christ has overcome.

3 — GALATIANS 6:9

DO NOT GROW WEARY

The harvest comes if we don't give up.

4 — JAMES 1:12

ENDURE THE TESTING

Those who persevere through trials receive the crown of life.

5 — HEBREWS 10:36

ENDURANCE BEFORE THE PROMISE

After doing God's will, endurance is necessary to receive what He promised.

THE REFINER'S FURNACE

PROVERBS 17:3 (NKJV)

"The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,
But the LORD tests the hearts."

BEFORE THE FIRE

- Real value already exists.
- Impurities are present.
- The metal is genuine, but not yet pure.

IN THE FIRE

- Heat exposes impurities.
- What's inside comes out.
- The Refiner separates what must go.

AFTER REFINING

- The metal is purer.
- Greater usefulness.
- The value was not created by the fire — it was revealed and refined.

GOLD IS VALUABLE BEFORE IT ENTERS THE FURNACE.
THE FURNACE DOESN'T MAKE IT GOLD. IT REVEALS AND INCREASES ITS PURITY.

ENDURANCE BEFORE THE PROMISE

HEBREWS 10:36

"For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God,
you may receive what was promised."

OBEDIENCE DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR ENDURANCE.



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THE REFINER'S KEY

UNDERSTANDING ENDURANCE THROUGH THE REFINING PROCESS

WHAT THE FIRE DOES, WHAT GOD DOES, AND WHAT IT PRODUCES

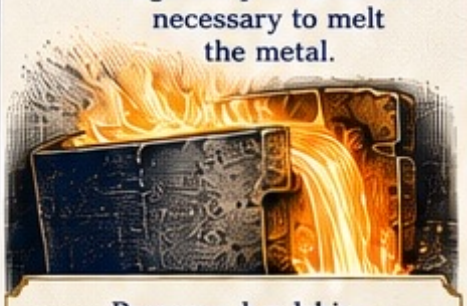


THE EIGHT CHARACTERISTICS OF REFINING

PHYSICAL PROCESS → SPIRITUAL APPLICATION

1 HEAT

High temperatures are necessary to melt the metal.



Pressure, hardship, adversity, and trials.

1 PETER 1:6–7

2 EXPOSURE

Melting allows impurities to become accessible for separation.



Difficulties reveal hidden attitudes, fears, weaknesses, and motives.

PSALM 66:10–12

3 SEPARATION

Impurities are removed from the valuable metal.



Trials can expose things we must surrender: pride, bitterness, impatience, and unbelief.

MALACHI 3:2–3

4 DURATION

Refining requires sufficient time and controlled conditions.

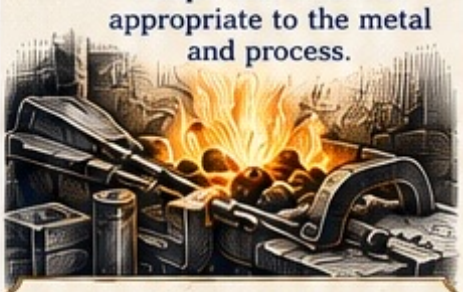


Character development takes time; growth cannot always be rushed.

ISAIAH 48:10

5 INTENSITY

Temperature must be appropriate to the metal and process.

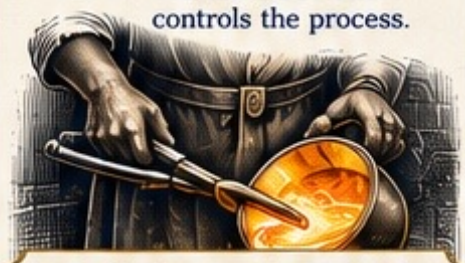


Different seasons of life bring different degrees of pressure.

ZECHARIAH 13:9

6 THE REFINER

A skilled refiner controls the process.



God is in complete control over the season of testing, even when we feel alone or on our own.

PROVERBS 17:3

7 VALUE

Precious metal is worth the expense of refining.

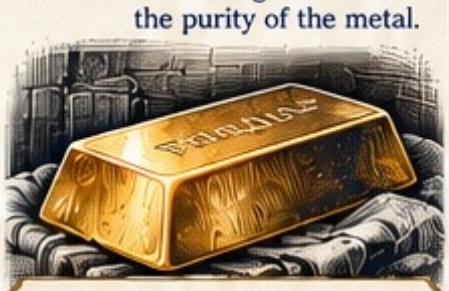


Testing does not mean a person is worthless or rejected.

1 PETER 1:7

8 PURITY

Refining increases the purity of the metal.



Endurance produces godly character.

JAMES 1:12

TESTING → REFINING → ENDURANCE

RELATED BUT DISTINCT



TESTING REVEALS
What's in you.
PROVERBS 17:3



REFINING REMOVES
What must go.
MALACHI 3:2–3



ENDURANCE PRODUCES
Godly character.
JAMES 1:12

THE FIVE SCRIPTURAL PILLARS OF ENDURANCE

1. **MATTHEW 24:13**
   ENDURE TO THE END
   Endurance is necessary.
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   EXPECT TRIBULATION
   Trouble is inevitable, but Christ has overcome.
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   The harvest comes if we don't give up.
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   ENDURE THE TESTING
   Those who persevere through trials receive the crown of life.
5. **HEBREWS 10:36**
   ENDURANCE BEFORE THE PROMISE
   After doing God's will, endurance is necessary to receive what He promised.

IMPORTANT DISTINCTION



Not every hardship is necessarily a punishment by God, but in every situation, He tests to teach and to purify.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. When life becomes uncomfortable, does your faith remain consistent?
2. What has difficulty revealed about your character?
3. What are you holding on to that God may be calling you to release?
4. Can you remain obedient when your circumstances haven't changed?

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES ON REFINING



Malachi 3:2–3
Zechariah 13:9
1 Peter 1:6–7
Isaiah 48:10
Psalm 66:10–12
Proverbs 27:21

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THE FURNACE DOESN'T MAKE IT GOLD. IT REVEALS AND INCREASES ITS PURITY.

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WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

SCRIPTURE REVEALS SEVEN WEAPONS FOR VICTORY.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4

"For the weapons (ὅπλα, hopla — plural) of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds."

"WEAPONS" IS PLURAL.

THE SWORD IS ONE WEAPON.

SCRIPTURE REVEALS THE ARSENAL.

1 WORD OF GOD

Sword — cuts, judges, counters deception.

EPHESIANS 6:17
HEBREWS 4:12
MATTHEW 4:4, 7, 10

2 FAITH

Shield — extinguishes enemy attacks; overcomes the world.

EPHESIANS 6:16
1 JOHN 5:4

3 PRAYER

Engages warfare in the Spirit; effects change and intervention.

EPHESIANS 6:18
JAMES 5:16
2 CORINTHIANS 10:4–5 (CONTEXT)

4 TRUTH / TESTIMONY

Overcomes Satan through spoken alignment with truth.

REVELATION 12:11
2 CORINTHIANS 10:5
MATTHEW 4:4, 7, 10

JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS

1. "It is written..." (Matt 4:4)
2. "It is written..." (Matt 4:7)
3. "It is written..." (Matt 4:10)

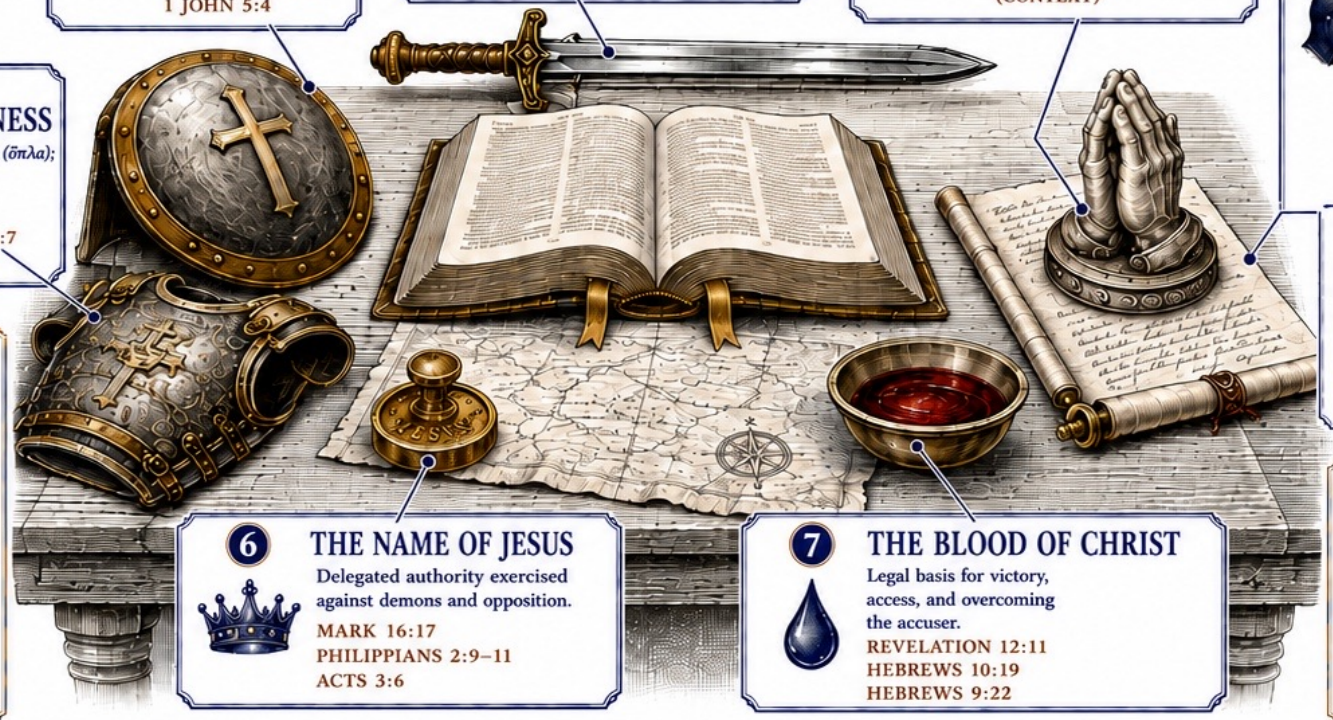
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Then the devil left Him.
MATTHEW 4:11

5 RIGHTEOUSNESS

Explicitly called weapons (ὅπλα); used in both hands (offense/defense).

2 CORINTHIANS 6:7
ROMANS 6:13



6 THE NAME OF JESUS

Delegated authority exercised against demons and opposition.

MARK 16:17
PHILIPPIANS 2:9–11
ACTS 3:6

7 THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Legal basis for victory, access, and overcoming the accuser.

REVELATION 12:11
HEBREWS 10:19
HEBREWS 9:22

SUMMARY (STRICTLY SCRIPTURAL)

Weapons identifiable in Scripture (plural):

1. The Word of God (Sword)
2. Faith
3. Prayer
4. Truth / Testimony
5. Righteousness
6. The Name of Jesus
7. The Blood of Christ

NOT CARNAL, BUT MIGHTY IN GOD.
2 CORINTHIANS 10:4

CLARIFYING NOTE (IMPORTANT)

- ☑ Ephesians 6 gives the equipment list.
- ☑ 2 Corinthians 10 defines the warfare reality.
- ☑ Scripture itself confirms the plural: *weapons, not one.*

THE BELIEVER WAS NEVER ISSUED ONE WEAPON.

WE ARE EQUIPPED WITH A COMPLETE ARSENAL FOR VICTORY.

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THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD SO THAT YOU MAY STAND.

EPHESIANS 6:13–18

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.



1 BELT OF TRUTH

Truth steadies and holds everything together.

EPHESIANS 6:14
JOHN 17:17

2 BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Righteousness guards the heart and life.

EPHESIANS 6:14
2 CORINTHIANS 6:7

3 PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Readiness and firm footing supplied by the *gospel of peace.*

EPHESIANS 6:15

4 SHIELD OF FAITH

Faith extinguishes the flaming arrows of the evil one.

EPHESIANS 6:16
1 JOHN 5:4

5 HELMET OF SALVATION

Salvation guards the mind with hope and assurance.

EPHESIANS 6:17
1 THESSALONIANS 5:8

6 SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

The Word of God cuts, confronts, and answers the adversary.

EPHESIANS 6:17
HEBREWS 4:12
MATTHEW 4:4, 7, 10



PRAYER

Praying at all times in the Spirit.

EPHESIANS 6:18

ACCOMPANIES THE ARMOR

STAND FIRM.

THE BELIEVER WAS NOT LEFT EXPOSED.