

## *The Passionate Pursuit of God: A Look at Biblical Contemplation and Meditation*

*I give you an invitation: If you are thirsty, come to the living waters. Do not waste your precious time digging wells that have no water in them (John 7:37; Jeremiah 2:13). If you are starving and can find nothing to satisfy your hunger, then come. Come, and you will be filled. You who are poor, come. You who are afflicted, come. You who are weighted down with your load of wretchedness and your load of pain, come. You will be comforted! You are sick and need a physician, come. Don't hesitate because you have diseases. Come to your Lord and show Him all your diseases, and they will be healed! Come!*

--Madame Jeanne Guyon, Experiencing the Depths of the Jesus Christ

**Summary:** Want to develop a deeper relationship with God? We will look at pursuing God through a lifestyle of prayer, contemplation, and meditation from the perspective of the Bible. Topics will include discussion of classical Christian contemplative writers such as Madame Guyon, St. John of the Cross, and Teresa of Avilla. The allegory of the Song of Solomon, scriptural theophanies, the role of angelic ministry, and practical methods for personal devotion will also be discussed.

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### **Meeting Times:**

Mondays, 5-6 PM  
Room XX, Bldg XX

### **Topics:**

- 1) Foundational premises of Biblical meditation and contemplation
- 2) The Mysteries of God: creation, humanity, redemption, and the desire of the ages
- 3) Contemplative Writers
- 4) Practical Aspects to Meditation
- 5) The Journey of Bridal Love: the Song of Solomon
- 6) God's Unveiling in the Scripture: Theophanies and visions of heaven

### **What you need:**

- 1) A Bible
- 2) Spiritual Hunger!

### **Who Am I?**

I am without a doubt a "friend of the Bridegroom". My primary purpose is to point you to one person and one person alone: Jesus the Messiah. It is not to point you to yourself, to un-personified wisdom, to generic energy, or to divine human aura within. If you come into living reality of Him, the Man Messiah Jesus, He is the hope of glory living within You and He alone will satisfy the deepest spiritual longings of the human heart.

Colossians 1:27-29

*To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.*

## *Foundational Premises to Biblical Contemplation and Meditation*

We will be learning how to pursue the God of the Bible. We will understand the truth of who God is, the truth of who we are, and the understanding of His desire for us through a distinctly Biblical lens. Though there are many other ways to define God and other religious systems that have belief or faith in God, we will be exploring the depths of a relationship distinctly with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob... the God of Israel.. the God of the Bible.

### **Contemplation:**

act; human\_action; human\_activity  
 ↳activity ↳sensory\_activity ↳sensing; perception  
 ↳look; looking; looking\_at ↳stare  
 ↳contemplation: reflection, reflexion, rumination, musing, thoughtfulness

1. Thoughtful observation or study.
2. Meditation on spiritual matters, especially as a form of devotion.
3. Intention or expectation: *sought further information in contemplation of a career change.*

### **Meditation:**

thoughtfulness ↳meditation

1. The act of meditating; close or continued thought; the turning or revolving of a subject in the mind; serious contemplation; reflection; musing.

So what is Biblical contemplation and meditation?

It is centered on a specific **Person** that we meditate upon and contemplate...

It is centered on the revelation of that Person found primarily in one **Book**...

The splendor of Christ Jesus brings significant pleasure and delight through meditation.

This is why David said in Ps. 145:5, ***"I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works."***

#### **Matthew 22:29**

29 Jesus answered and said to them, **"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."**

#### **John 5:31-47**

31 If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.

32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.

33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.

34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

39 **You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.**

40 **But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life (*zoe*).**

41 I do not receive honor from men.

42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.

43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

- 44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from **the only God?**
- 45 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust.
- 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.
- 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

### The Thesis of Biblical Contemplation:

*Jesus the Messiah is the most majestic, indescribably lovely Person that the human heart can behold. Seeing His soul-satisfying beauty is the greatest source for holy passion. He is the fullest exegesis of the invisible God that we can behold, understand, and experience on this side of eternity. We were made for such a relationship and bonding of our spirit to God's Spirit... this is the primary purpose of life and the loftiest of pursuits to which human beings can attain.*

#### Colossians 1:13-23

- 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- 15 **He is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.
- 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
- 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in all things He may have the preeminence.**
- 19 **For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell**,
- 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.
- 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled
- 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—
- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

#### Hebrews 1:1-4

- 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
- 2 has **in these last days spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
- 3 **who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person**, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

#### John 1:1-18

- 1 **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.
- 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- 4 **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.**
- 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
- 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
- 9 **That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.**
- 10 He was in the world, and **the world was made through Him**, and the world did not know Him.
- 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
- 12 **But as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
- 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "
- 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.
- 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- 18 **No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**

NO JESUS... No PEACE (shalom)  
 KNOW JESUS... KNOW PEACE (shalom)

Jesus' full beauty is incomprehensible.

It is impossible to fully comprehend or communicate His beauty with the limitation of the five natural senses.

The Holy Spirit uses the word, "like" when referring to Jesus' splendor, because nothing is adequately comparable to it.

The 3 main metaphors in creation depicting the splendor of Christ Jesus are the mountains, the sky and the sea.

Any metaphor used is inadequate and significantly deficient in conveying the beauty of Christ Jesus.

His beauty far exceeds any metaphor used by the Holy Spirit from the natural created order. Jesus has no rival in the affections of people who think accurately of Him.

He is so compelling in His beauty, that even when He draws back His Presence, those that have seen even dim, brief glimpses of His splendor are loyal to Him even through the desert seasons.

In beginning to understand contemplation and meditation as part of a lifestyle that pursues God from this lens, there are certain premises that form the foundation of such a study.

**Premise #1: A Personal Creator God Exists Alone in All Glory and Eternal Power**

God gives no explanation of Himself in the Scriptures.. the reader must assume that He is... and that the object of human existence is to discover this Being who is the source and sustainer of life. The God of the Bible claims unique status as the one and only unique Creator and possessor the divine essence.

**Genesis 1:1**

1 In the beginning God...

**Mark 12:28-34**

28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"  
29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.  
30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.  
31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."  
32 So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.  
33 And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."  
34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him.

**1 Samuel 2:2**

2 "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

**Psalms 86:10**

10 For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

**Isaiah 37:1**

16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

**1 Timothy 1:17**

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Acts 17:22-29**

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;  
23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:  
24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.  
25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.  
26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,  
27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;  
28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'  
29 "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

## **Premise #2: The Spiritual Realm Is A Not Neutral Source of Power**

The spiritual realm is not a *neutral* source of power or understanding but rather a realm where beings of two kingdoms vie for control in the affairs of men. Flesh is not bad and spirit good... this is the Gnostic heresy. A personal God created angelic realms that exist in an unseen, invisible realm: these angelic powers are "extra-terrestrial" in the sense that they are not of the physical, earthly realm. Their *influence* is seen and felt in the human dimensions of life and the physical affairs of men. One portion of the angelic realm is in rebellion toward God... they influence mankind to believe lies about God, doubt God's word, smear God's character, rebel against God's commands, and live in disharmony with God and other men. They are influence for evil and wickedness... and they are also an influence for good that does not acknowledge God in the form of religions and thought systems.

### **James 2:19-20**

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. **Even the demons believe--and tremble!**

### **Genesis 3:1-8**

1 **Now the serpent was more cunning** than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'**"  
 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;  
 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "  
 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.  
 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."  
 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.  
 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.  
 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

### **Revelation 12:7-12**

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,  
 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.  
 9 **So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**  
 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.  
 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.  
 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

### **Revelation 20:1-2**

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.  
 2 **He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan,** and bound him for a thousand years;

### **1 John 4:1-6**

1 **Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.**  
 2 **By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,**  
 3 **and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.**  
 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.  
 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.  
 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

### **John 10:7-11**

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.  
 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.  
 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.  
 10 **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.** I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

**1 Corinthians 8:4-6**

- 4 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.  
5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords),  
6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**

- 14 And no wonder! For **Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**  
15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

- 1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,  
2 in which you once walked **according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,**  
3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.  
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,  
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),  
6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.  
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,  
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.  
10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

- 3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,  
4 **whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**  
5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.  
6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**1 Timothy 4:1-5**

- 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,  
2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,  
3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.  
4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;  
5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

### **Premise #3: Truth is a Person and Can Be Known Through Relationship**

A primary thought in Biblical meditation is that we come to a PERSON. We do not come to a doctrine, a belief, or a theology. We don't come to a religion. We come to a personal, all-loving, all-wise, all-righteous King, Father, Judge, and Bridegroom who desires to reveal Himself to a seeking heart. In the person of the Triune God (Father, Son, and Spirit) we come simultaneously into the full expression of relationships that can be enjoyed between humans and God. Idolatry is simply replacing the truth of who God is with some other thing or person or spiritual entity.

#### **Psalms 33:4-5**

4 **For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth.**  
5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

#### **Psalms 25:5**

5 **Lead me in Your truth** and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; **On You I wait all the day.**

#### **John 4:23-26**

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**  
24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."  
25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."  
26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

#### **John 14:1-6**

1 **Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.**  
2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.  
3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.  
4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."  
5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"  
6 Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

#### **John 18:37-38**

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "**You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.**"  
38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

#### **Ephesians 4:20-24**

20 But you have not so learned Christ,  
21 **if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:**  
22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,  
23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,  
24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

#### **1 John 5:20-21**

20 **And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.**  
21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

#### **John 17:1-5**

1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,  
2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.  
3 **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**  
4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.  
5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.



## **Premise #4: Truth is not Discovered but Revealed -- God's Wisdom is Hidden**

### **John 14:15-18**

- 15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.  
16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—  
17 **the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;** but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.  
18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

### **John 15:26-27**

- 26 But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.**  
27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

### **1 Corinthians 2**

- 1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.  
2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.  
3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.  
4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.  
5 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.  
6 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, **the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,** which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.  
7 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."  
8 **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.**  
9 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.  
10 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**  
11 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.  
12 **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**  
13 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.  
14 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

### **Galatians 1:11-17**

- 11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.  
12 **For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.**  
13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.  
14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.  
15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,  
16 **to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,** I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,  
17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

### **Philippians 3:12-16**

- 12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.  
13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,  
14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.  
15 **Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.**  
16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

### **Luke 24:44-49**

- 44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."  
45 **And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**  
46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.  
47 And you are witnesses of these things.  
48 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

**Ephesians 1:15-21**

- 15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,  
16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:  
17 **that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,**  
18 **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,  
19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,  
20 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.  
21

## **Premise #5: Truth is Absolute and Measurable According to the Word of God**

### **John 17:17**

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.**

### **John 8:30-32**

30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**

32 **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

### **Galatians 1:6-9**

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 **But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.**

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

**Premise #6: Man is a Being that Inhabits Two Realms Simultaneously**

When God created man, He made them in His (their) own image. This image was present in both the male and female Adam. Man is triune just as the God of scripture is triune: body, soul, and spirit. Man is unique in that he is a spirit that lives in a body which has a soul. Angelic beings, from Scriptural revelation, are referred to only as spirits. God is defined as being distinctly spirit (John 4:24). Man is made in the image, similitude, and likeness of God... angelic beings, from the Biblical voice, are not indicated in such terms.

**Premise #7: Man is Separated by Sin from Communion with God**

**1 Timothy 2:4-7**

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,  
6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

**Romans 3:23-24**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

**1 Timothy 1:15**

15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

## **Premise #8: God Has Provided One Way of Reconciliation for all Mankind**

### **John 14:6**

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

### **Acts 4:8-12**

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:  
9 If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,  
10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.  
11 This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'  
12 **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."**

### **1 Timothy 2:4-7**

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

### **1 Corinthians 3:10-17**

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.  
11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.  
12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,  
13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.  
14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.  
15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.  
16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?  
17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

### **Acts 17:29-32**

29 "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.  
30 **Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,**  
31 **because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."**  
32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."

### **Romans 3:21-26**

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,  
22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;  
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,  
25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,  
26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

### **Romans 5:1-11**

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.  
3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;  
4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.  
5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.  
6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.  
7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.  
8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.  
10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.  
11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**Romans 5:12-21**

- 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—
- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
- 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.
- 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.
- 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.
- 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)
- 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.
- 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.
- 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,
- 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 8:1-11**

- 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
- 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,
- 4 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.
- 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.
- 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
- 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
- 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
- 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

## **Premise #9: God is the Source of All (Spiritual) Things By Which We Attain To**

### **2 Peter 1:1-4**

- 1 To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
- 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
- 3 **as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
- 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that **through these you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

### **Galatians 5:16-26**

- 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.
- 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
- 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
- 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

### **Ephesians 5:8-13**

- 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
- 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),
- 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.
- 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.
- 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.
- 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.