

The Laws that govern the New Covenant of Grace - part 2

4. The law of faith

[page 2](#)

5. The law of Christ

[page 35](#)



4) The law of faith.

For so long, many in the Body of Christ have used “*outward*” increase as their gauge for growth, but this may or may not be the result of God’s plan of growth. God’s gauge for growth is what He can do “*inwardly*” in His children as they submit to Him. God has a set pattern for growth in the Body of Christ and it’s through receiving His Revelation knowledge. This starts first with God’s leadership of apostle, prophet, evangelist and pastor and as a result of their teaching, it should flow to the rest of His saints. This is because Revelation knowledge is a personal one-on-one thing - it can only be given by the Spirit, but God’s design is that the Revelation-process should be inspired by the teaching of the leadership. His growth pattern is for everyone - and I mean everyone in the Body of Christ - to receive His Revelation knowledge.

Look at what Paul said about this in Eph 4:12-13 - “(He Himself gave the 4-fold leadership that through their teaching be) **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**”. We all like the phrase “*to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*” and many have prayed this over and over again for God to give revival to their churches throughout this world. What we must realize is that for us, as the Body of Christ, to arrive at the full measure of the stature of Christ is the result of us becoming mature in Him. And the Body’s maturity is the result of 2 very important factors: **1) coming into the unity of the faith** - not the unity of faith, for this would imply our doctrines, creeds and beliefs, but into the unity of THE faith. AND **2) coming into the unity of the knowledge of the Son of God** - this describes the knowledge of His Grace, for Grace and Truth came by Him, [John 1:17](#). Notice that it is only these 2 things that everything else works! It does not work by all of the doctrines that man has

made so extremely important - it works by these 2 things! Paul wants us to understand from this recording in Scripture that when these 2 factors abound in us, then v.13 happens, **“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting”**. I can’t stress it enough - it all works by these 2 things! Do you see how the enemy’s deception has been working in the Church to keep God’s children from coming together and allowing God’s plan to be wrought through us?

I want you to see these 2 important factors again - 1) coming into the unity of the faith and 2) coming into the unity of the knowledge of the Son of God. If you are listening to the voice of God, you can hear Him calling throughout the Body of Christ today and He is calling for unity of the faith and for the unity of the knowledge of the Son of God to be Revealed in us. Once again, He’s not calling us to come together by compromising our thousands of different doctrines and beliefs - but to come together in these 2 areas of Jesus’ Faith and His Grace.

In our few lessons on the Grace-laws that govern the New Covenant of Grace - the law of the Spirit, the law of Righteousness and the perfect law of liberty - we discovered the knowledge of the Son of God - the work that He did for us and has wrought in us. Then we learned of our identity with Him in what He did for us. This is the freedom of Grace! In these last 2 remaining lessons on the Grace-laws that govern the New Covenant of Grace - the law of faith and the law of Christ - we are going to investigate into Jesus’ faith. When these 5 Grace-laws of the New Covenant are working in our hearts and lives, we will start experiencing the last Great Awakening in this earth that God has promised before He returns, [Acts 3:21](#)!

what is the law of faith

Look at what Paul said about the law of faith in Rom 3:27 - **“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.”** For someone to *“boast”* about something is for him to celebrate what he has accomplished by his own efforts. I think about professional sporting events when I think about the word *“boasting”*. The pro athlete prepares very hard for his game against his opponent. So on the day of the game when he makes a great play, he loudly celebrates his victory. This may be great in sports, but it has no room in the

Kingdom of God! One cannot boast when it comes to Grace and its work in his life. Like Paul said elsewhere - **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”** The law of faith is completely contrary to one’s works - for Grace is God’s gift to a person that is wrapped in Jesus-paper! To really investigate the law of faith according to what Paul said in Romans 3:27, you have to see the whole context of his teaching. Look at what he said in v.21-24 - **“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”**. We should understand that we are living in the *“now”* that Paul is referring to in this passage of Scripture - he is referring to the New Covenant of Grace. We understand also that under this New Covenant umbrella of Grace, we have been made the Righteousness of God through Jesus Christ. Now look at how this work of Righteousness came about, *“by faith of Jesus Christ”*. Righteousness is made personal to the believer by his faith - trusting in what He has already done - but Righteousness was made available FIRST to everyone by the faith of Jesus Christ. It’s like the old question, *“Which came first, the chicken or the egg?”* We know that God made the chicken first to make the egg. It is the same way with Righteousness - Jesus made it available for us and in us first by His faith and then as we grow in His Righteousness by trusting in what He did (our faith), it becomes more real and personal to us.

Let me show you how Paul introduced this Grace-law to us in Rom 1:16-17 - **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”** In the gospel of Christ, the Righteousness of God is Revealed *“from faith to faith”* - It is Revealed from one Source of faith and then imparted to another faith. **The Source for our faith is seen in Jesus’ faith and this is discovered in the gospel.** Jesus’ faith in the New Testament is called *“THE faith”*. This important phrase is mentioned 39 times in the New Testament from the book of Acts to the book of Revelation and are used completely different than the words *“our faith”*. Somehow through the enemy’s deception, this topic of the faith of Jesus - which is the law of faith - has been overlooked by what we can accomplish through our faith - you see the difference? God for the last few

decades has been trying to Reveal this Grace-law to His people (since the 1960's), but because of one's ignorance of our foundation - Grace, [1 Cor 3:11](#) - they have preached and taught just about our faith (look again at what Jesus taught us in the gospel of Mark 11:23, because He prefaced it in v.22 by teaching on *"have the faith of God"*, the literal rendering, which functioned in the life of Jesus). And as a result of this, believers are trying to *"get, get get"* by their faith, instead of what the law of faith teaches and that is *"receive, receive, receive"* from the faith of Jesus! We need our faith (which I'll talk about later), but realize that the law of faith is the spiritual fuel that ignites our faith to its full blaze.

the indwelling measure of the law of faith

I want us to see how the law of faith came into our recreated spirits at the New Birth. Look at what Paul said to us in Rom 12:3 - **"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."** So many have gotten caught up in the words *"a measure"* that they have miss what we are being taught here. It was the Spirit of God Who dealt or gave this measure of faith, right? That means that before He gave it, it did not exist. Everyone who is born into this planet have their own faith, because without it, the unbeliever could never become Born again by believing in the sacrifice of Jesus. But not every person has the kind of faith that God gives, because He only gives it when He moves in! **This measure of faith is the faith of Jesus - the law of faith.** Also, we cannot place degrees or portions on God's measure (even though many have tried), because everything that He does is as unlimited as He is - the measure has nothing to do with amount, but everything to do with His Personal calling on one's life. **You have in your recreated spirit the unlimited measure of the faith of Jesus Christ and based upon that Truth, what He did in the gospels, you can do as you submit to His leading!**

Notice what Paul stated about this in Gal 5:22-23 - **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."** More modern versions of the Bible translate the word *"faith"* as *"faithfulness"* and that's fine. But think about it, we could not be faithful to the Lord without the faith of Jesus inside of spirits to ignite it. The purpose of the law of faith is for it to become a fruit in your heart and when it does, *"against such there is no law"* - you stop trying to work for Him

and start responding to Him. Look at this importance from this faith-fruit of our recreated spirit in Rev 14:12 - **"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."** John says that the law of faith produces *"the patience of the saints"*. When the law of faith works in our hearts, it produces our ability to remain steady (patience), no matter what happens to or around us! So do you see in this then how the law of faith spiritually fuels our faith in standing strong in God's Grace?

the importance of the law of faith

Look at this foundational Scripture again in Rom 3:27-28 to the law of faith - **"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law."** If you notice in these 2 verses, there are 2 kinds of faith mentioned: 1) the law of faith, where boasting is excluded because it came from Jesus and then 2) the believer's faith, whereby comes his justification through believing in Him. The law of faith is what Jesus has accomplished for us through His faith, not about what we can accomplish through our faith. In other words, the law of faith inspires one to *"faithfully respond"* to the faith of Jesus and to what He did, instead of *"acting out"* from his faith and then asking God to honor what he did - do you see the difference? You could say that the law of faith keeps one synched to God's timing and not relying on his own timing, [Ecc 8:5](#). Resting in the faith of Jesus then will keep one from becoming impatient and confused when he does not "see" the manifestation in his midst. This kind of impatience and confusion causes many believers to turn from the faith (the law of faith) altogether, [1 Tim 4:1](#). This is how we know that we are being governed by the law of faith in what we do - when impatience and confusion is kept at bay. This may sound confusing to some, but I guarantee you that your spirit is jumping for joy (this will also become clearer to you as we go forward in our lesson)!

See when Paul used the words in Rom 3:28 *"we conclude"*, he is saying to us that this is the way that it is - this is the way that God has set up man's justification in everything that he does under the New Covenant of Grace - first it's by Jesus' faith and what He has done, then it's by one believing in and responding to what He did (his own faith). The phrase *"the just shall live by faith"* is repeated 3 times in the New Testament - Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38 - which shows us how man's justification comes under the New Covenant of Grace (our justification was not

just for our New Birth, but justification keeps us in sync with everything of the Kingdom - literal meaning is *"to be declared right"*). These 3 verses from the New Testament come from what God prophesied in Hab 2:4. Look at what He says - **"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith."** Notice that this original prophecy uses the words *"his faith"*. Whose faith do you think that God is referring to here? It is the faith of Jesus, because that is the Source of man's justification - for Rom 1:17 tells us that it is from Jesus' faith to our faith. This is why a few verses later, God said through Habakkuk - **"For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea."** The glory of the Lord is what Jesus has done for us by His faith in the work of Redemption and this is the Source of our justification and we are to live by this glorious standard of His faith!

the spirit of faith

So let me say again that the law of faith is the faith of Jesus. Let me show you a great image of the spirit of faith that operated in Jesus from Isa 42:13 - **"The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies."** Jesus is the *"mighty man"* that is talked about here - His jealousy was stirred up like *"a man of war"* - Jesus by His faith went to battle for us in the work of Redemption and for us, prevailed over the enemy! Now let me ask you a question - *"Is your faith perfect, or must it continually grow?"* We all know the answer to that - our faith must continually grow, [2 Thess 1:3](#). However Jesus' faith was and is perfected and now His perfected faith is in your recreated spirit! This is why Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith, [Heb 12:2](#). See it was the faith that Jesus had and walked in while He was upon this earth that caused Him to fulfill the Old Covenant law for us and then qualified Him to be our sin-Sacrifice. It is the faith that operated in Jesus that took Him from the cross to the throne and it is the same faith that causes Him to be our Advocate, Who ever lives to make Intercession for us.

With that in mind, look at how Paul said this in 2 Cor 4:13 - **"And since we have the same spirit of faith"**. What spirit of faith is he referring to? He is talking about the measure of faith that God gave us when our spirit was recreated by the Spirit of God - the faith of Jesus - that we just saw that was at work in Jesus from Isaiah 42:13. The law of faith in you causes you to become like a man of war in the Kingdom of God. Going back to 2 Cor 4, look at how he concluded this chapter

about this indwelling spirit of faith and we'll see how we become this Kingdom-man of war - **“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”** We can see now how the law of faith causes the outward things of the enemy to work for us instead of against us - a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!

“the faith” taught in the New Testament

I mentioned that the law of faith is called *“the faith”* throughout the New Testament and it is mentioned 32 times (39 times in all, but 7 of those times, it refers to the faith of someone). What I am going to start doing is show you the verses where the words *“the faith”* are mentioned and we will start to get a Love-image from the Lord on the law of faith - the faith of Jesus - and what it accomplishes in our hearts as we learn by the Spirit to receive from it.

Look first of all at the verse that we left off from last week in Rev 14:12 - **“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”** If we are going to walk in patience, in spite of what goes on to and around us, then we are going to have to learn how to *“keep the faith of Jesus”*. The importance is not on keeping our faith, but on keeping His faith. In order to keep something, you have to know what it is and how to retain it. The *“how to”* is the Spirit’s job within you, but let’s learn what it is.

the book of Acts

Look at this first Scripture that we see in Acts 3:16 - **“And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”** Here in this verse we see both kinds of faith mentioned - our faith and His faith. Notice them working together - *“faith in Jesus’ name”* and then *“the faith which came through Him”* is what gave this man his *“perfect soundness”*. You could say that it is having faith in His faith!

Look at what we read in Acts 6:7 - **“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the**

priests were obedient to the faith." Notice how religion had to bow its knee and submit to the power of the reality of Jesus' faith. The reality of Jesus' faith in the hearts of believers caused the word of God to spread like *"wildfire"*. Understand this that when we see the word of God here, it is not referring to the Bible, because believers then did not have the Bible like we do. This refers to the spread of God's Revelation knowledge through the believers - it was the *"word of their testimony"*! Herein is the power of the law of faith - its reality creates a *"Revelation-flow"* in one's heart like nothing else, for it's founded on His amazing Love and when we share that truth with this kind of Love, glorious power floods this planet!

Look at what we read in Acts 13:8 - **"But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith."** I like the phrase that Luke added here *"for so his name is translated"*. The name Elymas means *"a wise man"*. In other words he represents the wisdom of the world done through its sorcery - through its deceptive powers of trickery. You do know that worldly wisdom is a counterfeit to the wisdom of God that is on the inside of you, right? It's like the rods that were thrown down by the wise men, sorcerers and magicians of Egypt that turned into deadly snakes, but the rod that Aaron through down that became a snake, swallowed the other snakes up, [Exo 7:12](#). The reality of the faith of Jesus in our hearts causes the wisdom of God to give us discernment in worldly affairs and make us superior to what the enemy tries to do against us, [Psa 119:98-100](#). This gives great meaning to what Paul said in 1 Cor 15:54 - **"Death has been swallowed up in victory."**

Now look at this Scripture in Acts 14:22 - **"strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.'"** Notice what gave strength to the souls of these disciples - it was the message to continue in the law of faith. Our soul is expressed through our mind, will, emotions and desires. Only the faith of Jesus empowers us to be able to stand against tribulations and to live the life of the Kingdom.

Now look at Acts 16:5 - **"So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily."** We just saw how Paul strengthened the disciples to continue in the faith - now we see that the churches, as a whole, were strengthened in the faith of Jesus. Churches are groups of disciples. The law of faith was not just a teaching from Paul - the Lord may of shown it to Paul first

through the Revelation of Grace - but it became an important doctrine of the Apostles to strengthen all of the believers. When I see the word *"increase"*, I not only see numbers (because man sees only numbers), but I see that the believer's Kingdom-influence spread to all of the people who lived around them.

Look at the Scripture in Act 24:24 - **"And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ."** It does not read *"his faith in Christ"*, but *"the faith in Christ"*. This was Paul's message. The faith of Jesus took over Paul's life to the extent that governors wanted to hear what he had to say. Paul did not need to tell the governor, *"Please sir, let me say something in my defense!"*. No, his fame spread throughout the land and they wanted to hear what he had to say!

the book of Romans

Now we come to the book of Romans. Look at what Paul said in Rom 1:5 - **"Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name"**. Paul is, of course, referring to himself and those of his ministry team, but it most definitely applies to every believer. Because look at what he stated in the next verse - **"among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ"**. As the believer receives from God's indwelling Grace, he becomes obedient to the law of faith. Being obedient to the law of faith requires one to keep receiving from God's indwelling Grace and this produces the highest and richest *"faith-lifestyle"* that one could ever have on this side of heaven!

Look at what Paul said in Rom 4:10-11 - **"How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also"**. It is amazing that God, through Abraham, prophesied of the law of faith to *"all those who believe"*. In other words, God promised Jesus through Abraham's faith and it is because of the faith of Jesus that His Righteousness is available for all, [Gal 3:7-9](#).

We saw how Paul introduced his letter to the believers at Rome (*"for obedience to the faith"*), now look at how he concluded it in Rom 16:25-27 - **"Now to Him**

who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to THE FAITH-- to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.” A lot is said here by Paul that I won’t go into now, but notice again the phrase in v.26, *“for obedience to the faith”*. Paul used it at the start of the letter and now he concludes the letter with it. This is why the subject on the faith of Jesus, which is the law of faith, is so vital for us to realize. We have been trying to accomplish God’s assignments on our lives through our own faith only and many - really everyone - has come up short of what God has promised us as the reward. It is time that we realize that our highest form of obedience is found and discovered in the faith of Jesus and in return, this makes our faith flow like water from our hearts!

the book of 1 and 2 Corinthians

Look at what Paul said in 1 Cor 16:13 - **“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”** Here in this verse, we see the 2 primary results us standing firm in the faith of Jesus - 1) the ability to be brave and 2) the ability to be strong. The Greek words for *“be brave”* means in our modern language *“man up!”* To man up is for someone to be tough by dealing with the unpleasant situations that are in front of him. This perfectly described the believers that Paul was writing to in Corinth. Because of their cowardice in standing firm in the faith, they were allowing all kinds of compromises into their heart. Standing firm in the law of faith causes us to be bold against the compromises of life. Then Paul used the words *“be strong”*. This word is more than just strength in the original language - the verb means that one is GROWING and INCREASING in strength, like one does when he works out with weights in a gym (of course, Paul is talking about one’s spiritual strength). Standing firm in the law of faith causes us to increase in the very strength of Jesus Christ. See these 2 glorious results are from standing firm in the faith of Jesus - the law of faith. From what Paul is speaking of here, I think about the verse that says, **“If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.”** There is unlimited ability and strength when we stand firm in the law of faith, because we know and are standing in the work has already been accomplished for us and wrought in us and we are resting in that!

Then notice what Paul says in 2 Cor 13:5 - **“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”** It’s one thing for Jesus Christ to be in someone through the New Birth, but it’s another thing entirely for him to be *“in the faith”*. Paul said that if a believer is not in the faith of Jesus, then he is disqualified. What does it mean for a believer to be disqualified? This means that he will be under condemnation and that condemnation will cause him to think and believe that he is unworthy of the Kingdom. Many believers are under this umbrella of darkness. Did you know that condemnation is a deeper root in the heart of the believer than FEAR could ever be? See condemnation does come to the believer from the deception of FEAR, but it remains in his heart by his own selfishness. Condemnation causes the believer to attempt to earn, merit or deserve God’s approval and favor, when Jesus by His faith has already obtained it for them. This is why Paul said to make sure that we are in the faith - the faith of Jesus. He said test yourselves. How do we test ourselves? If we are not resting in what Jesus has already done by His faith, then we will have 3 primary results: 1) impatience 2) frustration and 3) confusion. These 3 things cause us to fail the test. We must rest in the faith of Jesus; for when we do, we are resting in the work that He has done for us and has wrought in us and His joy and peace will rule our lives!

the book of Galatians and Ephesians

Look at what Paul said concerning his own testimony of God’s Grace in Gal 1:22-23 - **“I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. But they were hearing only, ‘He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.’”** I like how that, even though Paul hidden, his fame was being reported, check [2 Cor 6:9](#). This report then came through the Spiritual airways. I want to draw your attention again to the message that Paul preached - *“the faith”*. We understand now that “the faith” refers to what Jesus did by His faith and not to what people can do by their own faith. We also understand how Paul, before his conversion to Christ, sought to destroy that message by going after the people and then attacking them. But in all reality, that could never destroy the message of “the faith”, because it does not deal with people per se, but with Jesus!

Look at what Paul said in Gal 3:23 - **“But before (our) faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.”**

Here again we see the 2 types of faith working together. Jesus' faith was displayed in what He did for us and then, we place our faith in what He did - **we are having faith in His faith**. The powerful principle here for the believer is that if the faith of Jesus is not Revealed to his heart, then he will still remain under his own works in trying to earn, merit or deserve God's approval and favor. The words "*kept under guard*" paint a vivid picture of the prison that FEAR produces in one's heart without the Revelation of the law of faith. We must understand in the light of this verse what Rom 10:17 says to us - **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Christ)."** Our faith comes as the result of hearing the message of Christ - how through His faith, He did the work for us!

Look at what Paul said in Eph 4:13 - **"till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"**. Ephesians 4 is the ideal plan that God has designed for the Church to function in. I can hear someone say, *"Yes Gene. But I believe that the Church will never arrive at this ideal position in Christ."* We must realize that the Church has drifted away from this ideal position in Christ - Jesus has already established Ephesians 4 for the Church to function in by His Grace! The Church in the book of Acts was heading into this glorious position before the original Apostles and Prophets passed away and I believe that God through us receiving from His indwelling Grace, is bringing us back into this position (believers have already started responding and advancing forward into this glorious reality)! I like how Paul clarified the "*perfect / mature man*". He did not say that maturity comes to the believer as a result of him knowing all of the doctrines of his denomination, backwards and forwards. No, he said that maturity comes to the believer by 2 things: 1) coming to the faith and 2) coming to the knowledge of the Son of God. This is the unity that we all coming into - those 2 areas - not of a denomination, but of Jesus! Actually, Paul says that it is by the winds of doctrine (which make up denominations) that keep the believers tossed to and fro and as babes in Christ! We have been fed a bunch of lies from the enemy about how we are to grow up into Christ in all things. Our maturity in Christ is all about Jesus' perfection and His amazing Grace! Is it any wonder why we saw in the book of Acts how Paul and the other Apostles taught the believers concerning "the faith"?

the book of Philipians and Colossians

Look at what Paul said in Phil 1:27-28 - **“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.”** Paul said this to them before he was to come again to see them. So it’s implied that these things are the things that he taught them when he was present with them the first time. Notice how he called it *“conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ”*. Look at these 3 things that constitute a conduct that is worthy of the gospel of Christ: 1) standing fast in one spirit, which is unity 2) with one mind striving TOGETHER for the faith, which is the faith of Jesus and 3) in no way allowing FEAR from adversity to terrify them, which is allowing God’s indwelling Love to govern their hearts, [1 John 4:17-18](#). If Paul called this walking worthy of the gospel of Christ, then we can see how far most believers have drifted away from our proper Kingdom-conduct.

Now look at what Paul said in Col 1:21-23 - **“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 (comp Phil 1:27) which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”** I want you to notice that verses 21 and 22 are realities that have already taken place in your life through the Grace of God in the New Birth. So the first word *“if”* that we see in v.23 is not telling us that v.21 and 22 are conditional in our lives only if we meet the requirements, but rather Paul is telling us that if we want these indwelling realities of v.22 and 23 to be *“Living realities”* in our lives, then the requirements of that verse must be met - understand? It’s like if I walk up to a drink machine that calls for 75 cents to get its product and I only put in 70 cents for it. You understand that I won’t be able to get the drink. The drinks are in the machine - so I we can’t say that they do not exist - but I failed to meet its requirement of 75 cents to receive one. It does not matter how much I beat and scream at the machine, I didn’t meet its requirement of 75 cents. So look at the requirement for these living realities in all that we do in life. It all starts by the believer continuing in the law of faith, becoming *“grounded and steadfast”* in it, not being moved away from the hope that Jesus’ faith produces in his heart. Once again, **this is having faith in His faith!**

Look at what Paul said in Col 2:6-7 - **“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”** In the verse that we just looked at, Col 1:23, we saw the words *“grounded and steadfast”* in “the faith” and now we see how we are to become *“established”* in it. I like the process here of becoming grounded... steadfast... established. Now notice how this glorious process works in our hearts, *“As you have therefore received... so walk”*. The 2 methods of RECEIVING and RESPONDING to what Jesus has already done are how we are to be *“rooted and built up”* in Christ and then everything else follows INCLUDING one of the believer’s best characteristic - his gratitude.

the books of 1 and 2 Timothy

It is interesting to note that Paul talks more about the law of faith - the faith of Jesus - in the first book of Timothy, than any other book that he wrote. In this letter, Paul wrote to Timothy to encourage him in his responsibility for overseeing the work of the Ephesian church. Paul wrote to instruct him in the area of pastoral care and conduct. When I realized this, I again saw how important that it is for the leadership of the Body to get a hold of the message on the law of faith.

Look now at what Paul says in 1 Tim 1:2 - **“To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”** Notice that Paul did not say that Timothy was as a son to him *“by faith”* - but that he was a true son *“in the faith”*. There is a big difference here. Not only was Timothy as faithful to Paul as a real son would be, but he was faithful to the message of the faith of Jesus and that was the reason why God told Paul to put him as an overseer to the churches in Ephesus. In order to be faithful to something, you have to know what it is and the responsibility that it requires. We understand that when we live by having faith in His faith, then we can have rest because our success is upon His shoulder and not our own. We are RESPONDING to the inner working of the Word instead of trying to make the Word work in our lives by our faith. This was the foundation to everything that Timothy taught in the churches at Ephesus and to the kind of leadership that he put into place there. This gives us insight to the leadership of the Body at that time and what was and should be the standard for true leadership today.

Look at what Paul said to him in 1 Tim 1:18-19 - **“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck”**.

Here again we see the 2 types of faith and how rejecting the law of faith causes one to be “*shipwreck*” in one’s own faith and destroys his good conscience. That does not mean that his faith does not work - it means that his faith is going in the wrong direction and producing Kingdom-failure in his life. This opens your eyes to some things!

Look at what Paul said in 1 Tim 3:9 - **“holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.”** Notice that Paul is talking about the mystery of THE faith, not the mystery of faith. In context, Paul is instructing Timothy on how to select deacons (“*sub-leaders*” who serve in the local churches - “*ushers*”). This instruction, if held today (and of course, it should be), would eliminate most deacons who serve in our local churches. There are some powerful truths in this verse that I want to bring to your attention. Notice again that Paul said that the faith of Jesus is a mystery. One’s own faith is not much of a mystery to the person who use it - even non-believers use their faith in the things that they invent, achieve, etc. Faith is the spiritual makeup of every person. But the law of faith is a mystery that must be Revealed by the Spirit of God - if it isn’t Revealed, then it will remain a mystery, because it is the faith that Jesus operated in. Also notice how Paul links together the law of faith with a pure conscience. A pure conscience results from the believer knowing that he has been washed from his own works, [Heb 9:14; 10:1, 22](#). When one’s heart remains veiled from the finished work of Jesus, he cannot see the faith of Jesus, because he is still leaning on his own works.

Look at what Paul said a few verses later in 1 Tim 3:13 - **“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”** Honor and boldness come from “*serving well*” and we just saw in 1 Tim 3:9 how one is to serve well - it is by the faith of Jesus, not only goes for deacons, but every believer. Notice that this is not just any kind of boldness, but it is the boldness that comes from the faith of Jesus - it is Jesus’ boldness displayed in the deacon / believer (see this in [Acts 4:29-31](#))!

Look at what Paul prophesied in 1 Tim 4:1-2 about the time that we are living in today - **“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies**

in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron". Notice how the spiritual decline started, when believers *"depart from the faith"*. It is only when believers depart from the faith of Jesus that they open their hearts to listening to deceptions and doctrines based from the outward darkness of FEAR. Notice that when this happens, they start speaking lies in hypocrisy. Isn't this what Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for doing? He kept calling them hypocrites, because they were teaching things and placing heavy burdens upon the people that they themselves were not able to bear, [Matt 23:4](#). Many have fancied what Paul said here in 1 Tim 4 into meaning a lot of things, but simply put, Paul again is referring to the law - man's own efforts and works of trying to please God and gain His approval by what they do. This deception and these FEAR-doctrines are the complete opposite of Grace and specifically, the law of faith. Jesus has obtained it all for us and has given it to us - let us have faith in His faith! Also notice in this verse that SOME believers in these last days will depart from the law of faith. Others, as we have seen, will come into the *"unity of the faith"* that Paul talked about in Eph 4:13! Let us who are seeking the Lord with all of our hearts, not become distracted by what other believers are doing. But like Paul said elsewhere, keep standing firm in the law of faith, [1 Cor 16:13](#).

Notice what Paul said in 1 Tim 5:8 - **"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."** Paul is teaching about the widows whose husbands have died and certainly, he does not teach or expect that the widows should take charge and look after their own households. In this verse, Paul is speaking to local shepherds in looking after their own flock - specifically, the widows. Paul is giving us a principle of how pastors of churches have the responsibility of overseeing and caring for the people that God has entrusted unto them. A lot can be pointed out here about this very important principle to the leadership of the Body of Christ, but notice how the leaders became selfish in not caring about their flock because they *"denied the faith"*. If one denies a thing, than he has refused it and that is because he has chosen something else. When God's leaders start putting their own needs above the needs of those under his care, he has denied the faith of Jesus. James talks about this same thing and calls it *"partiality"* in [James 2:1](#).

Look at what Paul says in 1 Tim 6:10 - **"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."** This verse is about the deceitfulness of riches, which is called greed and greed can work in a heart of one

who doesn't have a dime to their name - actually there are more *"poor"* believers that have greed working in their hearts, than there are *"rich"* believers who operate in greed! There is a very interesting verse in Prov 1:19 that explains this from another angle - **"So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners."** Greed comes to the believer from outward FEAR and then it remains in his heart by his own selfishness. Then from his heart, greed starts *"eating away"* at the Life of the word. Now you can see why greed causes one to wander from the law of faith and causes him to chase the wrong things of this life.

Look at how Paul concluded his first letter to Timothy in 1 Tim 6:20-21 - **"O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen."** I like how Paul stressed the importance of his last words to Timothy here in guarding what the Lord had committed to his trust. Paul said that he must do this by staying away from *"profane"* and *"idle"* talk that comes from false knowledge, because as we have seen already, that false knowledge takes one away from the faith of Jesus Christ. Paul is talking about any teachings or knowledge that takes us away from Jesus - which is Grace - and he calls this false knowledge. What Paul was telling Timothy and what he is telling us today is God's knowledge is linked with the law of faith - it's us having faith in Jesus' faith. This is Grace and this is true knowledge - God says it would be wise to avoid the other talk.

Paul writes a second letter to Timothy and look at what he tells him in 2 Tim 3:8-9 - **"Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was."** What Paul says here to Timothy is a lot like where he finished his last letter to him - it is about believers veering from God's truth and His truth is always on the side of His Grace, [John 1:17](#). Paul is talking about some of the believers in the Church who were always learning - evidently they were learning the false knowledge that Paul was talking about earlier to Timothy and these believers were trying to mix it with God's knowledge - and this compromise will never cause one to be able to come to the truth of Grace. According to history, Jannes and Jambres were 2 of the magicians who contended with Moses and Aaron in Egypt which is recorded in [Exodus 7:10-12](#). Aaron's rod swallowed up their deceptive rods that they threw

down. Just like these 2 magicians, these believers in Ephesus had filled their minds with worldly knowledge of how things should go in their local assemblies. Notice that because these believers had corrupt minds filled with false knowledge and because of it, they were “*disapproved*” concerning the faith of Jesus. The Lord did not disapprove of them, but their own corrupt minds made them see themselves as being disapproved! This shows you why some believers are bent on resisting the leadership in the Body.

Paul gives Timothy a testimony of his own life in 2 Tim 4:7 - “**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**” Contained in this little verse of Paul’s testimony is glorious power for our continual walk of victory in this life. It is the faith of Jesus that causes us to always fight the GOOD fight of faith. We understand that it’s a good fight of faith because the victory has already been won by Jesus and what His faith has accomplished - we are eternal victors! And also by the faith of Jesus, we are able to finish the race that is set before us. When Paul mentioned the race that he had finished, he was referring to the victory-race that he had finished for the glory of the Lord on this side of heaven. For instance in car racing event, the victory lap is an extra lap that the winning driver does on the race track after the conclusion of winning that race. He does this to give the spectators an opportunity to congratulate him and his crew and to also give honor to his competitors (those that were in the race). The race that Paul ran was his victory lap - for he knew that through the faith of Jesus, had already won the race and all that he was doing was responding to his victory!

the rest of the New Testament

Look at what Paul said in Titus 1:13-14 - “**Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.**” Just like Paul selected Timothy to oversee the churches in Ephesus, he selected Titus to oversee the churches on the island of Crete. What Paul told Titus here is a lot like he told Timothy in [1 Tim 6:20-21](#), because in religious traditions, “*there is nothing new under the sun*”. I want you to notice the wording that Paul used here in this verse to describe those believers who were deceived and were therefore, not sound in the law of faith. He said that they were giving heed to Jewish fables and to the commandments of men. These 2 deceptive results from religion take place when one is not sound in the faith of Jesus - they may be trying to function in their own

faith by hanging onto the traditions of men, but they are not standing in the law of faith because they are leaning on their own works.

Look at this verse in James 2:1 - **“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.”** We have already discussed this verse a couple of times in our study on the Grace-laws that govern the New Covenant, but there are 2 great truths that I want to draw your attention to in this verse. The first truth is how James linked the faith of Jesus to Him being the Lord of glory - in other words, he linked the law of faith with His glory. I thank God for all the wonderful manifestations of glory that we have witnessed in our lives, but the glory that will be witnessed as we get our eyes off of our own faith and onto Jesus and to what He has accomplished by His faith, the glory that we encounter will supercede all that we have witnessed so far! A lot more can be said about this, but I want to show you this second truth that we see in what James said in this verse. He tells us that if we are not standing (he used the words “hold”) in the law of faith, we will give into partiality. It is impossible to have the faith of Jesus and single out certain folks to be better than others. A lot can be said about this as well, but I’ll leave it alone - for now!

Look now at what Peter said in 1 Pet 5:8-9 - **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”** We should all understand that the enemy has been eternally defeated by Jesus and he has also been stripped from having any authority over you and I. We should also understand that you and I are eternally victorious over the enemy because of Jesus and because we are now the very children of God. So when Peter says that the enemy - your adversary - is seeking whom he may devour, he is telling us that the adversary cannot devour just anyone. We must give the adversary place in our lives and when we do, notice in this verse where our power to resist the enemy comes from - being steadfast in the faith of Jesus! Notice this observation with me in the Body of Christ - when one is functioning in his own faith, he attempts to REBUKE the enemy, but when one is standing in the law of faith through the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, he RESISTS him (there is a tremendous difference between the 2 actions). Nowhere in the New Testament are we instructed to rebuke the enemy - we are told to resist him and it is the faith of Jesus working in our hearts that shows us this. Rebuke may deal with our words, but resist deals with our inner change!

Now notice what Jude said in Jude 1:3 - **“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”** Now we finally come to the last Scripture that we will look at concerning the law of faith and how vital it is for our lives. Look at how Jude stated this importance in us contending earnestly for it. To contend for the law of faith does not mean that we don't have it necessarily, but it means that we are to contend diligently to keep standing firm in it. It's like the old game that children play *“king of the hill”*. Once the child reaches the top of the hill, he is to contend earnestly to keep standing in that his position against his opponents who are trying to knock him down from there. Jesus by His faith has already elevated you to sit with Him in heavenly places, we are to contend earnestly to keep standing firm in our rightful position!

Look at how Jesus said this to the churches at Ephesus in Rev 2:5 (remember that Paul and Timothy ministered here, so these believers knew what Jesus was saying) - **“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.”** The law of faith is a vital part of the *“first works”*, because it is the faith of Jesus and what He has done by it for us! Anything that takes our eyes off of Jesus and puts them onto ourselves - like walking in our faith (ONLY) - takes us away from the first works - because our first works comes from our first Love! I hope that you will allow the Spirit of God, through these Scriptures that I have brought out, to Reveal to you this vital aspect of Grace - the law of faith - and let us learn to live life by having faith in Jesus' faith!

understanding Hebrews 11

I hope that by now we have seen the law of faith must be the foundation to our faith-walk. Hebrews 11 is often called the *“Hall of Faith”* chapter and here is the verse that explains each one listed therein - **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”** This verse is not spoken directly of the believer, because through Jesus' faith, we are already pleasing to God the Father. But this verse speaks of those who are listed in this great chapter and it shows us exactly what these faith-heros used in reference to Kingdom things. I want to draw your attention to how this glorious chapter starts and how it

concludes. This chapter starts off by telling us something very important about our faith-walk - **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** And now I must show you how this chapter ends - **“And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.”** Do you see how, even through their faith in God obtained a good testimony, they were not able to receive the promise that we now have through Christ? The promise here, according to [1 John 2:25](#), is eternal Life which comes through the Grace of Jesus Christ. We have receive this promise through the faith of Jesus Christ. So I like to call the beginning and the ending of Heb 11 the 2 bookends that explains our faith-walk, because everything written in between those verses, were written for our example - not for our reality.

So look again at how Paul concludes Heb 10 going into v.1 of chapter 11 - **“But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** Here is an important lesson to learn. The faith that our *“heros”* displayed in Heb 11 was powerful, but it was superficial (as it pertained only to outward things). However because of the faith of Jesus - the law of faith - the reality of our faith is to the *“saving of our souls”* (remember the 2 indwelling realities of victory and freedom). The reason why the reality of our faith produces inward deliverance is contained in v.1 - it is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen! We must understand that faith is a spiritual substance that is born into every person on this planet, because it is part of his spiritual makeup (man being spirit, having a soul and living in a body) - albeit, most people are not walking in the correct faith like Paul said in [2 Thess 3:2](#). This is the reason why in Heb 11, we are given such a great testimony of the people that walked by faith - understanding that they were not Born Again because the promise of eternal Life was not given yet. Under the New Covenant of Grace, we now have a faith that is the spiritual substance of things hoped for. This means that our faith gives the *“Life-form”* to the things that we expect from what God has given us in our hearts from the Word. In other words, our faith is what gives us great confidence to the reality of God’s promises - we are assured of their manifestations in our lives. Not only that, but our faith causes us to have an inward image of them coming to pass in our lives, even though it has not taken place yet in the natural! Do you see what kind of victory and deliverance that our faith produces in our souls from this?

having the faith of God

So from this, what is our faith? I have showed you from Heb 11 that every person born into this earth - where God's child or not - has faith on the inside of his spirit. Now that we are recreated by the Spirit of God at the New Birth, our faith has been recreated as well. Jesus prophesied of this reality in [Mark 11:22](#) when He literally said *"have the faith of God"*. I don't know why the translators of the Bible did not record it this way - maybe they thought that it was too good to be true! This is why Paul also said in [Gal 5:22-23](#) that part of the makeup of our recreated spirit is faith - see when the Holy Spirit moved in, He brought along His faith. Just think about it, we as believers have the law of faith which says that Jesus through His faith accomplished it all for us and then through the New Birth, we also have the faith of God Himself! This is the faith that we are to diligently acquire to walk in. This is the meaning of what Paul said in 2 Cor 5:7 - **"For we walk by faith, not by sight."** If we fail to walk by the spiritual fruit of the faith of God, we will walk by our 5 physical senses of what we naturally hear, see, smell, touch and taste. There is no middle ground to walk in - it's an either or scenario. But if you are led by the Spirit, then you will not be under the law of the senses, [Gal 5:18](#).

the 7 pillars of our faith

One question here in the light of walking by faith - *"How do you know that you are walking by faith and not by sight?"* To answer that question, we go back to 2 Cor 5. Look at what Paul said right after the verse that we just looked at - **"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him."** There are 2 great truths which result when we are walking by faith and not by sight. The first result of walking by faith and not by sight is **knowing that you are well pleasing to the Lord**. What does that mean? Jesus was the One that caused us to be well pleasing to the Lord - it's not in anything that we do or don't do. Our well pleasing to the Lord comes from Grace. When we are walking by faith and not by sight, we will be walking in the knowledge of this Grace! The second result of walking by faith and not by sight is **our confidence**. Our knowledge of Grace produces our confidence! What I want to show you this week are the 7 pillars (supports) that flow from our foundation of the law of faith. These pillars will give great aid and strength to you being able to walk by the spiritual fruit of faith. It is our confidence in His Grace that makes

these 7 pillars “actual” and “practical” in our lives. Let me show you these 7 pillars.

Pillar 1 - the reality of Redemption. The simplest definition of Redemption is seen in what Paul said in Col 1:14 - **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins”**. New Covenant Redemption came through Jesus’ blood and gave to us the forgiveness of our sins - past, present and future. Look at what Paul also said in Heb 9:12 - **“Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”** See our Redemption is eternal and eternity covers our past, present and future, does it not? Sin put us on the enemy’s “turf” and God has forever done His part to forever separate us from the enemy’s turf - now it’s up to you and I to receive what He has done and to walk in it! To the believer, sin use to be on the inside looking to express itself outwardly, but now through the reality of His Redemption, sin is on the outside looking to come in! The truth is that if we don’t receive this reality of the forgiveness of sins through His Redemption, we will not be able to walk in it and we will allow sin to dominate our lives, [Rom 6:14](#). As we grow in the Grace-knowledge of our Redemption, even our forgiveness of sins, our faith soars - for faith comes by continuing to hear the word of Christ (the literal translation of Rom 10:17).

Pillar 2 - the reality of the New Birth. Another term that Jesus used for the New Birth is what He told Nicodemus in [John 3:7](#) - *“you must be Born Again”*. We understand that when we were Born Again, there was a New Birth which took place in our spirit. There are 2 primary truths that I want you to see about the New Birth. The first truth about the New Birth that I want you to see is that your spirit was **recreated** by the Spirit of God. Look at what Jesus illustrated about this in Matt 9:16 - **“No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.”** When your spirit was recreated, it was not *“patched up”* with God’s new cloth, but your spirit was completely changed by and with His New Life! The second truth that I want you to see about the New Birth is that you are **God’s very Own child** and He is your Father. The same Love and care that the Father showed Jesus when He walked this earth is the same Love and care that He has for you! The phrase that is used in the New Testament, *“of God”*, shows us that we were born from Him (the Greek rendering literally means *“out of”* God). This is to affirm that you are God’s very Own and He is your very own Father! As we grow in the Grace-knowledge of what He has wrought in us through our New Birth - recreated

and His very own children - our faith soars to new heights - for faith comes by continuing to hear the word of Christ.

Pillar 3 - the reality of Righteousness. Righteousness is not what God necessarily has, it describes Who God is. Righteousness describes the quality of God's Life-nature. In like manner, Righteousness is not something that you necessarily have from the Lord, it describes who you have become. Righteousness describes the quality of your new Life-nature - it describes the real you! Look at this verse in 2 Cor 5:21 in understanding this - **"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."** Every believer has become the Righteousness of God, because they are in Christ. In this verse, Paul draws us a contrast between *"sin"* and *"Righteousness"*. Sin is the word that God used in describing what we were, but now because of Jesus and His Grace, Righteousness is the word that God uses to describe what we are. Remember that sin use to be on the inside looking to express itself outwardly through your members, but now sin is on the outside looking to come in. And the same thing can be said about Righteousness - now Righteousness is on the inside looking to express itself outwardly through your members! Righteousness describes the quality of the white garment that your recreated spirit has been clothed with by the Holy Spirit. This is the reason why under the Old Covenant of law, it was impossible for Righteousness to be imparted to one by his own works. The law was lifeless, being recorded on 2 tablets. But because of Jesus and our faith in Him, His Righteousness has become what we are. Now we can respond to this indwelling reality and produce works of Righteousness. As we grow in the Grace-knowledge of what we have become through the Righteousness of Christ, our faith soars to new heights - for faith comes by continuing to hear the word of Christ.

Pillar 4 - the reality of being God indwelt. We understand that we are a spirit, we have a soul and we live in a body - these 3 parts of our makeup are 3 entities. God does not indwell the entity of our souls and He certainly does not indwell the entity of our bodies, but He certainly indwells the entity of our spirits through Jesus Christ! What we have done is attempted to see our spirit as we see our body and this is wrong. Our bodies are 3 dimensional and we have perceived that our spirit is the same way and then try to understand how God Almighty could fit in it. So the reality of being God indwelt remains not only a mystery to us with that kind of perception, but its reality is like a fable. Remember the story of the madman of Gadara, who had a legion of demons on the inside of him? When

Jesus cast out the legion of demons, they went into 2,000 pigs, [Mark 5:13](#). Think about that for a moment. This guy had 2,000 demons on the inside of his spirit! This story gives us a glimpse into the reality of the size of our spirit - it's a lot different than what we have imagined. We see size through our 3 dimensional eyes, but this is not the way that God designed your spirit. Look at what Solomon said in 2 Chron 2:6 - **"But who can build a temple for him, since neither heaven nor the highest of the heavens can contain him?"** Of course a temple is 3 dimensional. But Jesus has built a temple on the inside of us by recreating our spirit that is a fit habitation for the Spirit of God to indwell, [Eph 2:22](#). You have on the inside of your spirit Someone Who knows everything about everything! So you can see that as we grow in the Grace-knowledge of the reality of being God indwelt, our faith soars to new heights and new dimensions - for faith comes by continuing to hear the word of Christ.

Pillar 5 - the reality of our Kingdom-authority. This reality is the product of being king and a priest of the most high, [Rev 1:6](#). There is so much contained in our Kingdom-authority. For some, they believe that there is a position that they must arrive at with God to be able to have this kind of authority. However this authority - God's Kingdom-authority - became yours when you were recreated by the Spirit of God at the New Birth. This means that you have the same authority that we see Jesus walking in when He was upon this earth. The reason why so many believers don't walk in it is because they haven't seen what has been given them through God's Grace and therefore, haven't been able to receive from it and grow it it, [Rom 5:17](#). Look at what Paul said about this in 2 Cor 5:17-18, 20 - **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ"**. Paul calls every believer an *"ambassador"* who has the *"ministry of reconciliation"*. This position and ministry was given to the believer because he is a new creation. Every believer has been anointed for this ministry, [1 John 2:20](#) and every believer has the right to use the name of Jesus in accomplishing this ministry, [John 14:14](#). As we grow in the Grace-knowledge of the reality of our Kingdom-authority, our faith soars to new Kingdom-heights and new dimensions - for faith comes by continuing to hear the word of Christ.

Pillar 6 - the reality of the Integrity of God's Word. When I talk about God's Word, I am taking about His promises in the Scriptures. When we think of the

Word in the light of the New Covenant of Grace, we need to start seeing the Almighty speaking directly to us. Look at this verse regarding this in Psa 138:2 - **“I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”** God has magnified His Word supremely with the name of Jesus! We understand the matchless integrity of the name of Jesus - we need to see also that the same integrity is with the Word of God. There are a couple of reasons that I want to bring out why many are not being able to see the integrity of God’s Word.

The first reason why people do not see the integrity of God’s Word is their **inability to be diligent in rightly dividing it**, [2 Tim 2:15](#). The integrity of God’s Word is the word of His Grace, [Acts 20:32](#). When one does not rightly divide God’s Word through the New Covenant of Grace, His Word loses its ability to produce its power in his life. I’m just repeating what Jesus said about this in Mark 7:13 - **“making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down.”** Along with this inability of seeing God’s Word in the light of Grace comes shame, because shame always comes from one’s own works.

The second reason why people do not see the integrity of God’s Word is their **own lack of integrity**, especially in the words that they speak. We understand the God’s Word is His bond - our word must be our bond. This is why Paul said this to us in Eph 4:29 - **“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”** A corrupt word is simply a word spoken outside of Grace. Look how he said this a few verses later - **“But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”** Paul called it *“foolish talking”* and *“coarse jesting”* and he equalled it with *“fornication”*! This is because our words can be fornication against God when they lack the integrity of Grace and Love.

You can see from this then, that as we grow in the Grace-knowledge of the reality of the integrity of God’s Word, our faith will soar to new Kingdom-heights - for faith comes by continuing to hear the word of Christ.

Pillar 7 - the reality of the indwelling wisdom of God. [Proverbs 4:7](#) tells us that wisdom is the principal thing for us to receive in all the affairs of our lives. We

must realize that this wisdom, through the New Birth, is on the inside of us - not somewhere laying around in heaven as we wait for God to give it to us! There are so many believers who fail to see this. Look at what James said in his letter - **"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."** I use to think that I had to ask God for the wisdom that I needed, because it was not inside me. But then I realized that God is the One Who lives inside me Who has the wisdom that I need to see - if He is in me, than so is His wisdom. James a few verses later tells us how to get this inside wisdom from God - **"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."** The wisdom that we need for our situations of life is contained in the *"implanted word"* of your spirit. See it was that implanted word that caused your spirit to be recreated, [v.18](#). A lot can be said here about this pillar of wisdom, but I will leave it here. As we grow in the Grace-knowledge of the reality of God's wisdom indwelling us, our faith will soar to new Kingdom-heights - for faith comes by continuing to hear the word of Christ.

the law of faith revisited

Look at what Paul said in Gal 2:20 - **"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."** Notice that he said *"the life which I now live... I live by faith"*. This lesson on the law of faith - which is having faith in the faith of Jesus - is not to negate the importance of us walking by our faith, because walking by faith is extremely important if we are going to walk in God's indwelling Kingdom. The lesson that we must learn however, is that walking by faith is not something that we have to WORK at or MUSTER up, like many of us have been taught. Walking by faith, just like other Kingdom-matters, is a work of Grace. Walking by faith should be a supernatural flow from God's Grace working in our hearts - in other words, we are resting in the work that Jesus has already accomplished for us by His faith. Notice here in Gal 2:20 how Paul's faith-walk was the result of the Revelation of Jesus' Love and His Love always points us to the work that He has done for us and has wrought in us! When we observe Jesus' Love, *"who loved me and gave Himself for me"*, we are seeing the faith that He walked in - this is having faith in His faith! This is the law of faith.

Look at what Paul stated in Eph 6:10-13, 16 about faith and our standing in God's Grace - **"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 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... above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."** If you haven't seen it by now, our spiritual warfare is not in fighting the enemy, because he has already been defeated. Our spiritual warfare is in standing against the enemy and enforcing the victory that we already have because of God's Grace. Actually, our standing in God's Grace, in spite of what the enemy tries to do against us, is our victory-fight! In 1 Tim 6:12, Paul called our spiritual warfare *"the good fight of faith"*. It is seen vividly here in Eph 6 in the words, *"above all, taking the shield of faith"*. The little words ABOVE ALL, should be seen as OVER ALL - showing faith's importance. The reason why is because our faith-shield is involved in every other part of our armor - hence what Paul said to Timothy, fight the good fight OF FAITH. It is our faith in the faith of Jesus that causes us to stand and thus, fight the fight. We all should know by now that it's a good fight because we have already won, but it takes our faith in what Jesus has already done for us, by His faith, to keep standing. Do you see the importance of our faith here? See the faith of Jesus is His Grace that has been given to us and by Grace we stand!

the prophetic overview of the 7 pillars of faith

So a quick overview of the 7 pillars that we saw last week: 1) the reality of Redemption; 2) the reality of the New Birth; 3) the reality of Righteousness; 4) the reality of being God indwelt; 5) the reality of our Kingdom-authority; 6) the reality of the Integrity of God's Word to us; 7) the reality of the indwelling wisdom of God. Once again, these 7 pillars are the supports and strengths for our faith and they flow from the law of faith - the faith of Jesus. What I want to share with you are 3 amazing portions of Scripture where these pillars were prophesied about.

Let us first look at what was said by Hannah in 1 Sam 2. The Lord had just given her the promise of having a son in her old age and in this chapter, Hannah erupts with gratitude and it takes her right into the prophetic realm (there's a very

valuable lesson here about gratitude!) Look at what she starts saying in v.1-2- **“And Hannah prayed and said: My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.”** Notice her gratefulness to the Lord and look at how the anointing came upon her to start prophesying - **“Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength.”** I like how the Lord had her to say that one’s arrogance and His knowledge are completely opposite to each other and this is the difference between law and Grace. See, the Lord starting prophesying through her about the New Covenant of Grace. Look again at what she said after speaking of God’s knowledge, *“the bows of the mighty men are broken, and those who stumbled are girded with strength”*. She literally said that the mighty will be mighty no more and those who were weak will be strong - this is the message of Grace, because we cannot earn, merit or deserve God’s favor - by Grace, the weak one is made strong! Look at how she brought this out a few verses later - **“He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, And He has set the world upon them. He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. ‘For by strength no man shall prevail.’”** In prophesying of God’s knowledge, she spoke of the pillars of the earth and what earth do you think that the Lord is talking about here? The earth here refers to God’s Kingdom! She is speaking of the pillars of God’s Kingdom - the reality of Redemption, the reality of the New Birth, the reality of Righteousness, the reality of being God indwelt, the reality of our Kingdom-authority, the reality of the Integrity of God’s Word to us and the reality of the indwelling wisdom of God. The Lord said through Hannah that He has set the world of His Kingdom upon these 7 pillars - you talking about you and I being able to walk by faith in the Kingdom of God!

Then the Lord said that His saints will guide their feet by these 7 pillars and this is the way that the wicked will have nothing to say about what they see resulting from our lives - they will be silent in darkness! Then the Lord makes His own statement right in the middle of her prophecy. He says *“For by strength no man shall prevail”*! Walking by faith in these 7 pillars makes him UNSTOPPABLE in this earth! Isn’t this what took place in Paul’s life as we read about him in the New Testament? It wasn’t until he said that he had finished the race and kept the faith

that the enemy was able to stop him. I don't know about you, but that just makes me shout! Hallelujah!

Now that we have seen Hannah's prophecy about the 7 pillars and their significance in the Kingdom, let's look at what we read about them in Psa 75. Just a little background about this amazing chapter. Psalms 75 is the middle chapter of Psalms. Of course, Psalms 1 and Psalms 150 are the first and last chapters - so Psalms 75 is like the part between the what begins to happen and its completion. Psalms 1 talks about the power of the Word and its effect in our hearts and lives as we meditate in it and Psalms 150 teaches us on the power of our praise from an upright heart - Psalm 75 then, is the "*middleman*", if you will, that makes everything from Psa 1 and Psa 150 manifest in our lives! Look at what we read in Psa 75:1 - **"We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near."** This Psalm starts praising God for His wondrous works - the kind of amazing works that declare that He and His name are near! These wondrous works are the amazing works of Grace! Look at what David went on and prophesied - **"When I choose the proper time, I will judge uprightly. The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved; I set up its pillars firmly. Selah"** God chose the proper time when Jesus was born into this earth, paid our sin-debt and caused us to become His very Own Righteousness! God is now judging you and I based upon His Grace that says that our sins and iniquities He will remember NO MORE! Look at the last portion of what David penned here, *"The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved; I set up its pillars firmly"*. The Living Bible says it this way - *"Though the earth shakes and all its people live in turmoil, yet its pillars are firm, for I have set them in place!"* I don't know about you, but this sounds like what is going on right now in this world that we live in! This whole world around us seems to be shaking at its very core - its economy, etc. - and as a result, people are in turmoil! But the great news is, as we saw from what Hannah prophesied also, our Kingdom-world is not moved at all - its pillars are firm and in place! Once again, the 7 pillars of the Kingdom are the reality of Redemption, the reality of the New Birth, the reality of Righteousness, the reality of being God indwelt, the reality of our Kingdom-authority, the reality of the Integrity of God's Word to us and the reality of the indwelling wisdom of God. These pillars are firmly in place, because each one is wrapped up in the faith of Jesus and what He has accomplished! Now notice what David went on and prophesied - **"For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another."**

Our exaltation and promotion, which many of us have heard about and are believing God for, happens as we walk by faith from these 7 pillars!

Now let us look at another Scripture in Prov 9:1-2 - **“Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table.”** We know that in the book of Proverbs, wisdom is Personified as Jesus and the amazing work of Grace that we have received from Him and [1 Cor 1:30](#) shows us this very well. So notice that wisdom has hewn out her 7 pillars of the reality of Redemption, the reality of the New Birth, the reality of Righteousness, the reality of being God indwelt, the reality of our Kingdom-authority, the reality of the Integrity of God’s Word to us and the reality of the indwelling wisdom of God. I want to bring your attention to these 5 acts of wisdom in these 2 verses of Prov 9. Just think about it, God specifically refers to wisdom 5 times here and I believe that it is because He wants you and I to know these acts of wisdom, so that He can bring us into a deeper walk with Himself and in His Kingdom. These wisdom-acts are in a deductive form: 1) wisdom has built her house – Jesus making the New Covenant of Grace for us; 2) wisdom has hewn out her 7 pillars - these pillars coming from the New Covenant of Grace; 3) wisdom has slaughtered her meat – the meat of the Word comes from these 7 Grace-pillars; 4) wisdom has mixed her wine – the new wine of Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit comes from us receiving the meat of the Word; 5) wisdom has furnished her table – this is the place where we partake of our deeper intimacy with Him – this is the Table of the Lord that He has forever spread before us, [Psa 23:5; 78:19](#)! This is how we are to walk by faith and not by sight and it comes from our position of rest as His Grace works in our hearts!

conclusion to the lesson of the law of faith

So once again, walking by faith is not something that we have to WORK on or MUSTER up. Walking by faith is having faith in the faith of Jesus and this is the law of faith at work in us. The law of faith then, governs our position of rest in Christ. Without the law of faith working in our hearts, we will end up confused and disquieted by doing our own works to gain God’s favor and approval.

Always remember that when learning anything, there are always foundations that need to be established before you can continue any further. Just like in Mathematics, you must learn addition before you can move on to learning

multiplication and so forth. Or in learning another language, you must first be established in recognizing its letters of the alphabet before you can move on to the basics of spelling, sentence structure and punctuation. Similarly, if you want to go deeper into God's Word, His intimacy and be able to walk in His indwelling Kingdom, you must first be established in the Truth that you are now under the New Covenant of Grace - for every Revelation from God's Word is built upon the Revelation of Jesus Christ and His Grace. And this is so vital for us to be able to walk by faith and not by sight through this Grace-law of faith.

Look at what Jesus said in Matt 5:17 - "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." The bottom line difference between the Old Covenant of law and the New Covenant of Grace is that Jesus has fulfilled the law of Commandments for us. In that Jesus has fulfilled it, we should then stay away from it, because it's no longer valid or relevant for us. Look at what Paul said in Heb 8:10-13 - "'For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.'" In that He says, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete." God has made an entirely new agreement with us based on the main clause, "their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" - Hallelujah!!! As the first Covenant was superficial, the new Covenant is personal - even where God Himself has agreed to do the inner work of writing His Love-laws upon our hearts. These Love-laws that God puts and records on our hearts are seen in His Grace. These are the Grace-laws that we have been studying through Scripture. Let me give you the rundown of the 4 Grace-laws that we have seen so far in our study and we will go into our 5th and last Grace-law.



5) The law of Christ.

Look at what we read in Heb 8:10-12 - **“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”** This is the amazing Statement from our Father on the New Covenant of Grace. We must understand that the New Covenant is the new agreement that has been made between God and the Man Christ Jesus and because we are identified with Him, it is also an agreement to us based upon [Amos 3:3](#). The main clause of our new Grace-agreement is *“I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more”*. This main clause is based in and from God’s UNCONDITIONAL Love towards us and this is the reason that without the Revelation of Love, we can not fully know God’s Word and plan for our lives - it will only be Revealed to us in parts, [1 Cor 13:9-10](#). Based on this Love-clause of God’s forgiveness then, notice what this new agreement is, *“I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people”*. It is through the putting and writing of His Grace-laws upon our hearts that we will certainly know that He is our God and that we belong to Him! The question is then, what are these Grace-laws that He writes and puts upon our hearts? This is what we have been investigating over the last few months - the 5 Grace-laws of the New Covenant. Each one of them are listed for us in the New Testament. Every one of these 5 Grace-laws govern the operation of God’s Kingdom in this earth and more specifically and initially, in our individual lives.

Notice again the Grace-laws that we have seen so far - 1) the law of the Spirit, [Rom 8:1-2](#); 2) the law of Righteousness, [Rom 9:30-33](#); 3) the law of liberty, [James 1:25; 2:12](#); 4) the law of faith, [Rom 3:27-28](#), and the law of Christ.

Let's see what Paul brought out to us about this Grace-law in Galatians 6. Notice what we read in verse 1 - **"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."** He said *"if a man - who is a believer - is overtaken by any trespass, you who are spiritual restore"*. He did not say that any believer who has a *"psych"* degree, or a medical degree, or who has experienced the same trespass has the ability to restore one who is overtaken by a trespass, but Paul said that he who is SPIRITUAL has the ability to restore him. See many in the Church have thought that only those with PhD's or Sociological Degrees can perform the right kind of counseling to restore one who has been overtaken by trespasses and therefore, many in leadership have hired *"qualified"* counselors to be on their faculty. But God's requirement for restoration of such sin-burdened believers is for him to be spiritual. See Paul in Galatians 5 had been teaching on walking in the Spirit and being sensitive to the fruit of the Spirit - these are the ones who are spiritual. Only the spiritual believers are sensitive enough to help other believers who have been overtaken by trespasses. This verse from 1 Cor 10:13 will give us insight to what Paul is talking about - **"No temptation has OVERTAKEN you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."** Paul is saying that the ones who have received *"the way of escape"* - which is the Revelation from the Holy Spirit - know of certainty God's faithfulness in everything that we face in life. These are the spiritual believers whom God has equipped to be able to bring restoration to believers who are overtaken by any trespass. These are the believers who will not be *"conceited, provoking one another, envying one another"*, Gal 5:26, but by walking in the Spirit, are equipped to bring them restoration.

Look at what Paul stated in the next verse from Galatians 6 - **"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."** The spiritual ones are able then to bring restoration, because they bear their burdens and so fulfill the Grace-law of Christ. Every believer can fulfill the law of Christ in the lives, but not every believer is able to. For example, when a believer attempts to bear another's burden when he himself still governed by his flesh instead of the Spirit, the spiritual weight of that

sin-burdened believer will rub off on him and add to the weights he already has! A great example of this is seen in our modern day psychologists. They spend hour after hour, day after day helping people with their sin-burdens, when they themselves are sin-burdened. This is why psychologists have their own psychologists to talk to in trying to help them! Paul is telling us that only those who are spiritual can bear the weight of another's sin-burden, because they have learned by the Spirit, to cast everything over to the One Who cares for us the most and by this, they have learned to rest in His Grace - they have learned to live "carefree" lives!

the instruction to us from the law of Christ

This Grace-law then governs 2 powerful things in the Kingdom of God: 1) our relationship with one another and 2) our witness to the world. This Grace-law is the basis of THE GREAT COMMISSION as Jesus taught it in the Gospel writings (references - [Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Mark 16:15-18](#); [Luke 24:46-47](#) and [John 20:15-17, 21](#)). There are some who are doing the Great Commission - and thank God for it - but they are doing it without fulfilling the law of Christ. As great as their outreaches may be, they are not being as effective as they could be, because their witness to the world lacks in Love-power!

Going back to Galatians 6, look at how Paul brought this out to us in v.10 - **"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."** The word "*especially*" is in there for a reason, because it refers to us as believers fulfilling the law of Christ, which is bearing one another's sin-burdens in the Body and bringing restoration to those believers. Always remember that every one of these 5 Grace-laws govern the operation of God's Kingdom in this earth and more specifically, in our individual lives. Not fulfilling the law of Christ has been one of the biggest obstacles and hindrances for growth in the Body - as we will keep seeing in this lesson.

Look at how Jesus brought this out to us in John 13:34-35 - **"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."** We understand that we have a new covenant of Grace where the Spirit writes and puts His Grace-laws on our hearts - so now we must see that Jesus has given us a new commandment to love one another as He has Loved us! The little word AS in "*as I have loved you*" is the connecting word to

both phrases on both ends of it, which is *“that you love one another”*. In other words, we are to love others with the same Love that He Loves us with and has given us. This is the law of Christ - loving one another in the Body with the same Love that He Loved us with! Remember that we saw from Heb 8:12 that this Love-clause speaks over us God’s forgiveness, *“your sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more”*, and this is the same way that we are to love one another and bring restoration to believers who have been overtaken by trespasses! Only the spiritual believer is able to see the sin-overtaken and burdened believer with God’s eyes of complete forgiveness and then in turn declared over him, *“neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more”*! Only this kind of spiritual sight can bring restoration to this sin-burdened believer, because as Paul said in Rom 6:14 - **“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”** Only the realization of God’s Grace of forgiveness can cause one to overcome sin!

being equipped to fulfill the law of Christ

I want to go back to the statement that I made earlier and then qualify it through the Scriptures from what Paul is teaching on regarding the law of Christ. I said earlier in this lesson that every believer is qualified by the Grace of God to fulfill the law of Christ in the lives, but not every believer is able to. This may sound like contrary, but it’s not. Look at what Paul said in 2 Tim 3:16-17 - **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** The words *“man of God”* is not just referring to someone in the leadership of the Body of Christ, but it refers to every believer - for he is *“born OF God”*. God’s Word is for every believer to receive the instruction in Righteousness by the Holy Spirit, for him to become *“completely equipped”* to be able to fulfill the law of Christ!

So now going back to what Paul is teaching from Galatians, look at what he said in 5:1 that will lay the foundation to the law of Christ - **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”** Paul here again qualifies to us who the spiritual believer is that he is referring to in 6:1, that can bear the sin-burdens of others and bring him restoration. He is the one who *“stands fast in the liberty”*, because this kind of believer has encountered and experienced that freedom from Christ and will not

be entangled again with a yoke of bondage!

Paul goes on and shows us what is working inside the spiritual believer who is standing firm in his freedom in v.22-23 - **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”** Every believer has these 9 spiritual characteristics of the Spirit inside his recreated spirit, but Jesus told us in [Matt 12:33](#) that the fruit on the tree refers to one's heart. So the *“fruit”* that Paul is referring to here are the Spirit-characteristics working in the believer's heart. This means that God's characteristics are becoming this believer's own characteristics! This is how believers are conformed to the image of Jesus, [Rom 8:29](#), and it all started by him standing fast in the liberty by which Christ has made him free!

Let me categorize this fruit for you in 3 areas, because it will help us see how this fruit equips us to fulfill the law of Christ:

1) “love, joy, peace” - these characteristics refer to the results of His indwelling Grace working in our hearts. Herein is the difference between being Spirit-led to bear one another's sin-burden and one being head-led to bear their sin-burden. One produces restoration to the receiver and the other produces fleshly bondage.

2) “longsuffering, kindness, goodness” - these characteristics refer to the central part of the 9 characteristics of the fruit. These 3 God-characteristics become our very own characters and equip us to see believers the way that God sees them - in complete forgiveness of sins. These 3 fruit characteristics show what Jesus walked in while He was on this planet and just imagine, He has given them to us in fulfilling the law of Christ- Being equipped to say to one just like Jesus did, *“neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more!”*

3) “faithfulness (which is *“fullness of faith”* - God's very Own faith), gentleness, self-control” - these characteristics refer to the maintenance of His Grace working in our hearts. These characteristics maintain our sensitivity and walk in the Spirit, not giving into the flesh when we are fulfilling the law of Christ.

See it is the fruit of the Spirit that equips believers to fulfill the law of Christ by bearing one another's burdens. Many have thought that it was one's education, or abundance of Scripture knowledge, etc., that qualifies someone to be able to minister to others.

the law of Christ is the ministry of reconciliation

As we have seen, the law of Christ is wrapped up in what Jesus said to us in John 13:34-35 - **“34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”** Notice again how Jesus worded this in v.34, *“love one another”* twice and right in the middle of both of them, He said *“AS I have loved you”*. Loving one another with the same Love that He has Loved us with sums up the law of Christ! This is how we are to bear one another’s sin-burden and be able to bring to them restoration - see, it’s Love-restoration! This is exactly what Paul meant also in 2 Cor 5:18-20 - **“Now all things (on the inside of us) are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.”** A simple definition of reconciliation is *“restored harmony”* and this describes exactly how Jesus has Loved us - He has perfectly made harmony between our Father and us! Normally when we think of reconciliation, we think of the heathen coming into relationship with the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and although this is part of it, notice that Paul is talking to believers in that last verse, *“be reconciled to God”*. So notice the Love-ministry that we now have - the ministry of reconciliation - and that is not just for the heathen, but more specifically, to be the burden-bearer of other believers who need our help!

This is the kind of ministry that we now have with one another - letting them know, in spite of how they think they have failed God, Jesus has forever perfected and restored their harmony with God, [Heb 10:14](#)! Do you see the kind of restoration that this brings to believers who have been burdened down with sin? Our word or message of reconciliation to one another is seen in v.21 - **“For He (God) MADE Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might BECOME the righteousness of God in Him.”** Look again at the 2 words in that verse, *“made”* and *“become”*. God made Jesus to be sin for us. This is vividly seen in Isa 53:6 - **“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** Jesus was made sin with our sin, so that we could become His Righteousness! In spite of

what you have done, you are the Righteousness of God because you are in Christ! God has already judged and punished our sins in the body of Jesus Christ and through His Redemption, we have forgiveness of sins and the gift of no condemnation! And now we are clothed with His own Righteousness - not clothed with our own Righteousness, but we are clothed with His! Let me ask you a question, if you sin does that affect God's Righteousness? Let me assuredly answer that for you - No not at all, because He does not change! Well let me say it again, you are clothed with His Righteousness; so when you sin, His Righteousness that you are clothed with does not change - this is why the Righteous One is your advocate! Do you see how this message of reconciliation brings great great healing and restoration to the sin-burdened believer?

When we are walking in the law of Christ, bringing the restoration to other sin-burdened believers through the message of reconciliation, Paul said that we are *"ambassadors for Christ"*! Just think with me for a moment about an ambassador of the United States - let's say the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt. This guy is an American citizen working for the U.S., but he lives in another land. This guy not only has all of the rights of an American citizen, but because he works for the U.S., they make sure that all of he and his family's needs are met while he stays in that foreign land. Being an ambassador for Christ means that you are working for Him and His Kingdom! He will assure that all of your needs are met! This gives new meaning to the Lord being your Shepherd and you not being in want!

Jesus is our perfect example!

Jesus is our perfect example of the ministry of reconciliation. His Love for us and now in us is what the law of Christ is all about! Look again at what He told us in John 13:34-35 - **"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."** The 3-fold saying of Jesus *"love one another"* is the law of Christ - the ministry of reconciliation - for we are loving one another as He first Loved us! This new commandment to love one another AS He Loved us is the one and only commandment of the New Covenant of Grace - the 10 commandments of the law were fulfilled and are obsolete, [Heb 8:13](#). So let us see the word *"commandment"* in the Light of Grace, because the meaning of commandment under Old Covenant law is not the same meaning of commandment under New Covenant Grace that Jesus gave to us. The

10 Commandments of the Old Covenant of law were based on one's performance of them, but the new commandment of Love of the New Covenant of Grace is based on our response to His indwelling Love - the 10 commandments were "*outwardly*" performed, but the new commandment is "*inwardly*" executed. See the difference?

Now we will see where this new commandment of Love got its origin from. Jesus just gave them the example of this new commandment by washing their feet. Look at what transpired in the beginning of this chapter - **"Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."** I want to draw your attention to the 4 main Love-responses that Jesus had to the Spirit in washing their feet:

1) Jesus "*laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself*". This shows His submission to the Father and His humility towards others. We are told that Jesus knew that His hour had come and to where He was going - to the Father. He could of had the attitude "*Well My mission is over with these guys for now!*", but He was sensitive to and led by the Spirit of God and "*loved them to the end*". So He arose from the supper, laid aside His garments and girded Himself with a towel.

2) Jesus then "*poured water into a basin*". The water that He poured into the basin symbolically shows the water of the word - the rhema-Word of Revelation. It was this kind of word-water that He prepared to wash their feet with. A great verse for this is seen in John 15:3 - **"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."** This is what the word-water does, it makes one clean.

Jesus poured that water into a basin. This is very important, because the basin is symbolic of His heart - not His head. In other words, Jesus has God's Revealed word in His heart, not a bunch of Scripture verses rolling around in His head. The word-water of Revelation must minister to you first by the Holy Spirit and then as

you give it to others, it will have great impact in the lives of those who receive! I'll never forget when the Lord told me, *"Gene, the anointing is initially for you, but ultimately for others."* We must allow Jesus to wash our feet first with His word-water before we try to wash the feet of others, or else the word that we be ministering will be tainted with religious philosophy and selfish-ideas. Herein is the difference between one speaking with the voice of Jesus and one mimicking what others have said to him.

3) Jesus *"began to wash the disciples' feet"*. And once again notice that this was AFTER the preparation of pouring the water into the basin, not before. Many minister to others, but their basin - their heart - is empty of the Revelation knowledge of the Holy Spirit. It is also implied here that Jesus could only wash their feet if they allowed Him to take off their shoes. When He came to Peter, he almost didn't allow Jesus to take his shoes off and wash his feet. But when Jesus' Love tugged at Peter's heart, he allowed Him to fulfill His mission to him. Right after He washed Peter's feet look at what He said in v. 10 - **"He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."** He told Peter and the others that now He had washed their feet, *"you are clean"*, but then He added, *"but not all of you"*! He, of course, was referring to Judas who may have had his feet washed, but he did not allow Jesus to take his shoes off! For he already had betrayal in his heart and betrayal is a product of FEAR and selfishness. Sadly, some people are not ready to have their feet - their walk - cleansed.

4) Jesus *"wipe them with the towel with which He was girded"*. Now this is going the extra mile and completing the law of Christ! Many outreaches - as good as they may be, like their church services and Bible studies - stop at the washing of the feet with the word-water. But Jesus demonstrated to us to follow up with the Love-towel of service! This is symbolic of our Shepherd making sure that nothing is lacking in our lives, but that their every need is met! Somebody says, *"This is impossible! Pastors can't do this with ALL their flock! They have too many people!"* Well, I think that person who would asked this, partly answered himself in his last statement - *"too many people"*. Look at what we read in Acts 2:44-45 - **"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."** Every believer had their need met! This was God's original pattern and it must be ours today! All of the needs - that were made known by the believers - were met by one another! And notice again that the *"towel"* of responsibility did not fall upon

the leadership only, but the Love-towel of this service in fulfilling the law of Christ was done by all believers. During the time of the early Church, many relief projects were funded by every believer to meet the needs of other believers all around the known world - not necessarily to fund the projects and visions of their ministries.

Look at this Scripture in 1 John 3:17 - **"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"** To many believers, this verse refers to reaching out to the people of the world to meet their needs. Many use this verse to back up their outreaches to the world and show you pictures of poor, starving people, trying to get you to financially give to their ministries. But did you know that this verse is referring to the law of Christ? Look at the verse that precedes it, **"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."** 1 John 3:17 is about us laying down our lives for the brethren by meeting their needs.

becoming like Jesus by fulfilling the law of Christ

Going back to John 13, look at what Jesus said right after He did this to His disciples in v.14-17 - **"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."** Look again at what Jesus said, *"a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him."* He said the same thing earlier to them in Matthew's Gospel, but in a little different way. Look at how He said it in 10:24-25 - **"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master."** Washing one another's feet with the Love-water of the word and wiping them with the Love-towel of service is what causes us to be like our Teacher and Master!

Look at what He said in v.35 and it will make sense to you now - **"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."** Fulfilling the law of Christ is our greatest witness to the world, because it makes us just like Jesus in this earth! Many in the church have thought that it was all of our multi-

outreaches to the world - especially when trouble strikes them - but our witness to the world and its glorious effect that it will have on their lives in bringing them to Christ, will be from fulfilling the law of Christ. Then when we reach out to help the world, they will know that we have been with Jesus! Now we can understand this important aspect of the end times and our part in it when Jesus said - **“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world AS A WITNESS to all the nations, and then the end will come.”** The key words in this verse are *“as a witness”* and it is by fulfilling the law of Christ that makes us Jesus-witnesses of the good news of the Kingdom!

the law of Christ is vital to the growth of the Church

I did not say that the law of Christ is vital to the growth of *“churches”*, but *“the Church”* - the Body. There are many things that one could do to grow the size of his church - that is church growth - but there is only one thing that constitutes the growth of the Body and that is the law of Christ. Paul taught on this. I want you to notice what he started teaching about this in 1 Cor 12 - **“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant”**. I want you to know that starting in this chapter, Paul is teaching on *“spiritual gifts”* and he did not want them to be ignorant of them. There are basically 2 kinds of ignorance. The first kind of ignorance is being unaware of something. This could not be the case in the church at Corinth, because Paul taught them how to function in these manifestations when he was with them. But the second kind of ignorance is what Paul was talking about and that is lacking the right kind of education about something. This kind of ignorance is like me trying to cook a Gourmet meal - but I can make a *“mean”* hotdog! They were lacking the right kind of education from the Grace of God on how to properly function in these manifestations. These young believers were operating in these gifts, but it was without God’s correct order. What is His correct order? His order is directly tied to His Grace. Let me show it to you this way. The Greek word for *“gifts”* is charisma and the Greek word for *“Grace”* is charis. God’s charisma (His gifts) must flow from the His indwelling charis (Grace) and when they do, they will be *“effortlessly effective”* in the lives of people.

Paul started explaining this in the next couple of verse. Look at what he said in v.2 - **“You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.”** He’s letting them know that before they were recreated by Christ

Jesus, they were “*carried away*” by dumb idols and then he added the words “*however you were led*”. Do you see the lack of order that darkness has over these unbelievers? Paul is instructing them that this is not the way that God’s Grace-gifts should operate, because His gifts must come from Grace, not our selfishness. Then look at what he said in v.3 - **“Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”** The word “*accursed*” can be a little confusing, because in today’s language, it means one is under a curse. This word means “*something that one devotes to something*”. In other words, Paul is telling them that spiritual gifts are not about self-promotion, but are about exalting Jesus! See, the “*one speaking*” here is the one that is operating in the charisma and if that charisma is not promoting Jesus, then it is not coming from Grace Himself - the Holy Spirit.

Then in the next few verses, he explains the manifestations of the Spirit and how the Body is one member, even as Christ is the Head (the “*Brains*” of the Body - the One giving the directions to every part). Then he makes a very interesting statement in the last verse of the chapter. Look at what he said - **“But earnestly desire the best gifts (the 9 charisma-gifts). And yet I show you a more excellent way.”** He tells them what to earnestly (seriously) desire and then he adds the words “*yet I show you a more excellent way*” to earnestly desire the best gifts. Paul was essentially saying that a desire-driven life is good, but there is something that is better! Paul devoted the entire next chapter to showing us “*a more excellent way*”. Right after chapter 13, look at how he brought this out to us - **“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts”**. He puts everything in its proper order!

charity is fulfilling the law of Christ

Now we come to the more excellent way which Paul laid out before us in 1 Cor 13. In this chapter, there are 9 times in these 13 verses that the KJV uses the word “*charity*” (all of the modern translations of 1 Cor 13 use the word “*love*”). I like the word charity, because it is love in action or better yet, the word “*compassion*”. A great picture in describing this is seen from the life of Jesus in Matt 14:13-14 - **“When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.”** Notice the 1st

4 words - Jesus heard something. What did He just hear? He just received the news that His cousin, John the Baptist, was gruesomely beheaded by the king. I don't know about you, but if I hear that something bad happened to one of my family members, I need a break to gather myself! This is what Jesus did after hearing this report on John. He went into a deserted place by Himself to gather Himself - He did not bring any of His disciples, because He needed to be alone with His Father and gather His bearings. However right in the midst of this emotional shock, Jesus saw the multitudes that followed Him there on foot and we read that He *"was moved with compassion"*. If He leaned to His flesh (5 physical senses), He might have been moved with something else, like rage. But Jesus yielded to the Spirit of Love within Him and He was moved with compassion and healed their sick! This is Love in action and this is how we are to fulfill the law of Christ!

the 11 descriptions of compassion

Now that we see what Paul is teaching us about regarding the more excellent way, let's break open these verses and see how the law of Christ is fulfilled in us. Let me say this at the beginning - His compassion flows from His indwelling Love and Grace, not from any efforts on our part (our natural abilities cannot properly do what we are about to read). Most of the time when we read 1 Cor 13, we get the idea that this is something that we have to WORK at. NO! This is something that we YIELD to! Just like with Jesus, it does not matter what happens to us - in His case, His cousin being killed - it matters what's happening in us and how we respond to Him! The Love that we see, as we read 1 Cor 13, is a living reality on the inside of your spirit through Jesus Christ and His amazing Grace given to us! So fulfill the law of Christ of loving one another as He has Loved us, as we read 1 Cor 13, is a matter of you yielding to His indwelling Love - it's not a work in progress - it's a work of Grace!

In this chapter, there are 11 descriptions of compassion at work in us to fulfill the law of Christ. We will start with v.1 and go through v.13. At the end of every compassionate description, I will give you a great study translation of that verse or verses.

Description 1: Compassion gives us a Love-controlled voice.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I

have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.” Paul is telling us that it does not matter WHAT I say to people as much as HOW I say it to them. This comes from me responding INWARDLY to His Love and Grace, not OUTWARDLY from what I have learned. If my words aren’t with compassion, then I’m just making a loud noise. Herein is the difference between power-based words and performance-based words.

“It doesn't matter if I am speaking with human eloquence or with angelic ecstasy, because if my words are emptied of compassion, I sound like a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal (in the Kingdom).”

Description 2: Compassion produces Love-controlled and inspired gifts.

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” Paul is telling us that it’s not about “me” - like we saw in the beginning of 1 Cor 12 - it’s all about Jesus and how I can serve others with what He has given me! How I serve others with charisma should be Love-controlled, Love-directed and Love-inspired! Herein is the difference between religious-duty’s obedience and Love-responding’s obedience.

“And if I’m operating in the prophetic realm by perceiving all kinds of mysteries and all kinds of knowledge, and if I am using faith to remove mountains, but what I’m doing is emptied of compassion, I am as good as nothing (in the Kingdom).”

Description 3: Compassion prompts me to have Love-controlled sacrifices.

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” A sacrifice is what I offer to others. Paul is telling us that it is not what I may sacrifice, but how I sacrifice it that will make an eternal mark in the lives of people. All of my sacrifices must be Love-sacrifices - for this is the living sacrifice that comes from Grace! Herein is the difference between tradition that kills and Truth that brings Life.

“And if I'm giving away all my possessions to feed people, and if I am laying my life down as a burnt sacrifice, but have not a compassionate-directive in what I’m doing, then it profits me nothing (in the Kingdom).”

Description 4: Compassion is Love-controlled consistency.

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up”.

In this verse Paul shows us 5 characteristics of this consistency: **1) Loves suffers long** - I’m able to have complete emotional restraint, in spite of what’s taking place in my life; **2) it’s kind** - I’m always seeking the benefit of others; **3) it doesn’t envy** - I’m kept from complaining and competition; **4) it doesn’t parade itself** - my parade and celebration is the success of others; **5) it’s not puffed up** - I never have the “know-it-all” attitude when people are talking to me. Do you see the consistency in these compassionate qualities for us to be able to love one another as Jesus has Loved us?

“Compassion causes me to remain steady while keeping me friendly to others. Compassion keeps me from becoming envious toward them. Compassion causes me to never be a self-promoter, because I’m never inflated with pride.”

Description 5: Compassion is Love-controlled assistance.

“does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil”.

In this verse Paul gives us 4 characteristics of our compassionate assistance: **1) it doesn’t behave rudely** - I never act out of character and my character is compassion; **2) it doesn’t seek its own** - When I’m serving others, I’m never seeking what I want in their life but what they want in their life; **3) it’s not provoked** - I’m never stirred towards anger by what people say to me; for I’m not touchy, fretful or resentful; **4) it thinks no evil** - I never retain the faults of others, for I walk in COMPLETE forgiveness towards them, even as I am completely forgiven. Do you see the assistance that I now can offer to others from these compassionate qualities? This is when we are truly able to love one another as Jesus has Loved us?

“(Compassion) causes me to never behave indecently against someone because of seeking my own way with them. (Compassion) causes me to never be driven to anger against someone because of considering the evil they have done.”

Description 6: Compassion is Love-controlled sensitivity.

“does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth”.

Although this verse only contains 2 characteristics of compassionate sensitivity, it is loaded with power! Compassion causes me to never be happy with other's mistakes and mishaps. On the contrary, I'm ready "to get my spiritual hands dirty" through prayer, Intercession, counsel, etc. I am always sensitive to declare the truth into and over their life until they receive their victory. Also, compassion causes me to become their biggest supporter! I stand ready to celebrate in their victory when truth triumphs in their life - even as if it was my own victory!

“(Compassion) causes me to never be happy at the failures of others, on the contrary, I am always ready to celebrate with them when the truth triumphs over that failure.”

Description 7: Compassion is Love-controlled persistency.

“bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

In this verse Paul gives us 4 compassionate qualities of being persistent in loving one another and fulfilling the law of Christ: **1) (Love) bears all things** - I'm able to bear the burden of others without it affecting me, because of a Love-controlled heart of compassion; **2) (Love) believes all things** - I'm not foolish and gullible, but I'm sensible and pliable, not suspicious and skeptical, but genuinely sincere to others in believing the best outcome from the word of Grace; **3) (Love) hopes all things** - I'm always having high expectations of good things happening in the lives of others; **4) (Love) endures all things** - I'm always always remaining steady and unflappable in bearing one another's burdens, because of God's compassionate Love controlling my heart. This kind of compassionate persistency in loving others as Jesus has Loved me causes me to never be derailed from God's M.O. with them!

“I forbear under every situation; believing the best outcome in each circumstance; having favorable expectations in every assignment, remaining steady in the face of every dilemma.”

Description 8: Compassion is Love-controlled fulfillment.

“(As you can see) Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.”

Starting in this verse, Paul is showing us the the power of compassionate-compelled gifts. Compassion is what brings fulfillment to charisma (gifts) that he taught in 1 Cor 12. He is showing us that if our charisma is not compassion-inspired, as great as the charisma maybe, it will be limited in its effect on the lives of people in the long run. We could see it this way, compassion-inspired and compelled charisma gives those gifts an everlasting effect on the lives of people. This makes sense, because isn't that what God does as we taste of His goodness?

“Compassion never loses its authority or ceases to have force in my life. However if there are prophecies given without compassion, they will be fruitless (in the end); if there are tongues given without compassion, they will be stopped; if there is knowledge given without compassion, it will be found fruitless (in the end).”

Description 9: Compassion is Love-controlled perfection. (v.9-10)

“For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”

These 2 verses are power-packed with Revelation knowledge - literally! Paul is showing us that without being Love-controlled and allowing compassion to cause us to love others as Jesus has Loved us (remember that He Loves us in complete forgiveness of sins and in showing us no condemnation), we can only know partial truths and prophesy - prophesy is speaking by the Spirit - and we can only do this from the partial truths that we know. Someone says, *“I thought that if someone spoke by the Holy Spirit, he would be speaking complete Truth.”* This is not the case (just consider all of the denominations that are in the Church).

There is a Revelation of completeness that the Spirit is able to give one ONLY when he has allowed Love to control his heart.

I like to reckon this Revelation to His adhesive. This is when He starts putting His Redemptive-puzzle together for us in our hearts in bringing the PARTIAL to PERFECTION. Look at how Paul brings this out in Col 3:14 - **“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”** Another word for “bond” is

the word ADHESIVE. Putting on Love is allowing it to control one's heart and when this happens, compassion takes over one's life and the law of Christ takes preeminence in every charisma that he may operate in. This is God's ordered flow for charisma!

"Because (without compassion) we are knowing out from a part and we are prophesying out from a part. But when the perfection (of compassion) comes, then what is out from a part will be found fruitless."

Description 10: Compassion is Love-controlled maturity at work in us.

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known."

Starting in v.11, Paul gives an allegory of the maturation process in us of compassion. The picture here is when he was a child. The meaning of what he is talking about is in the Greek word that he used here for "child" (he used this word 4 times in this one verse). The word is "*nepios*" and means a young and experienced child and it implies to us that of "*immaturity*". This is the allegorical image that he is giving us. Now notice the 3 expressions that he gives of himself being a nepios (an immature child): he spoke... understood... thought as a child. These 3 expressions of communication to others are deductive - meaning that the basis of his immature expression was his thinking and that determined the way that he understood and that determined how he spoke.

Then he says that when he became a man (mature), he put away the immaturity of his thinking and that eliminated his immature understanding and as a result, that eliminated his immature speaking. It helps us to see this verse in these terms, because he is talking about the maturity of compassion in us fulfilling the law of Christ. When the Holy Spirit pours His compassion in our hearts is the moment when we "*become men*". It's interesting to note that Paul is not talking about a process here, but a single "*Love-event*" in our lives. The verbal tense here that Paul uses, "*became a man*", is perfect tense. This means that the maturity became a done-deal when God's Spirit poured His Love into his heart and it was that Love that produced compassion that started changing his immature thinking. The process is seen as we put away our expressions of immaturity and I can't

stress it enough that it starts with our thinking - it doesn't start with our understanding or with our speaking.

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child and I reasoned like a child. But when I became a man (position of full age), I discovered that childish (immature) behavior was fruitless."

Now we come to v.12 where Paul, in sorts, explains the allegory that he just used with another example. He says, *"now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face"*. It is important that we realize still that Paul is comparing the maturity of compassion and the immaturity of selfishness. So the NOW that he is referring to is when one still is operating by his own selfishness in dealing with others. The dim-lit mirror that he is talking about is linked to the partial knowledge that he talked about in v.9-10. He also alluded to this dim-lit mirror in 2 Cor 3 and called it the *"veil"* that is over one's heart (*"closed face"* contrary to *"open face"*). So I believe that you should know by now what Paul meant here in this verse by the words *"but then"* - he is referring to the moment that we become men through the Spirit pouring God's Love into our hearts! See when God's Love is poured into our hearts by His Spirit, that is when we start seeing Him *"face to face"* - I like to use the words *"up close and personal"*! Why is this? Because now we are starting to love others JUST AS He Loves us - meaning that we are starting to see the intimacy of His Personal Love for us and are empowered to love others in the same way!

Then Paul reiterates what he told us in v.9-10 again by saying *"Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known"*. We are given the NOW, BUT THEN scenario again, just like in the last example that we talked about! To really understand that last part of the verse, he literally says *"then I will come to recognize Him just like He also recognizes me"*. This is exactly what John said in 1 John 3:2 - **"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."** God is Revealed to us through His Love for us! This is how we become just like Him and this is when we start loving others just like He Loves us!

"Now we are seeing in a darkened mirror, yet then (we will see Him) face to face. Now I am knowing in part, yet then I will come to recognize Him just like He also recognizes me."

Description 11: Compassion is Love-controlled supremacy.

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

This verse starts with the words *“and now”*. It is like he is saying to us *“And now that I plugged this in, I’m going back to what I was saying about charisma”*. Look at the 3 things that are abiding. We know that *“faith, hope and Love”* are not abiding aloof from us, like out in the street - these 3 things are abiding in you and me. So the obvious question then to ask is - *“what are these 3 forces abiding in me for?”* The answer to this is that they are abiding in us to properly manifest the charisma (spiritual gifts) in our lives. Faith is the **OPERATOR** of charisma; hope is the **INSPIRATOR** of charisma, but compassion (Love) must be the **MOTIVATOR** of charisma. Compassion must be the Source, facilitator and governor of our faith and hope when it comes to charisma, because every 9 charisma(s) that we see in 1 Cor 12 is about serving others, like washing their feet. Without Love-controlled compassion, these spiritual forces of faith and hope will not work properly when it comes to charisma - the charisma(s) will be out of order and will end up causing confusion and misunderstanding in the hearts of God’s children. This is why Paul stated that Love-controlled compassion in loving one another is the greatest of faith and hope - it has supremacy over faith and hope.

I believe that we can see more clearly now why Paul said in the next verse of his letter to the young, “wild”, believers - **“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts”** (1 Cor 14:1). In the light of charisma and manifesting them in our lives, pursuing Love-controlled compassion must be on the top of our priorities, because charisma is all about loving one another as Jesus has Loved us. It was Love-controlled compassion that motivated Jesus to get up from the table, pour water into a basin, gird His waist with a towel and then to wash the disciples feet and to dry them with the towel. It is the power of compassion that causes us to fulfill the law of Christ - for not only does it bring maturity to our lives, but facilitates maturity into the whole Body and it also shows the whole world that we are the disciples of Jesus! Now can you see why the law of Christ governs the growth of the Body of Christ?