



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25
- John 15:1-8

THE GREAT PARADOX

- Nothing
- Everything

The most expensive thing in the universe is free. Make sense? Let me say it in another way to clear up any contradiction; it will take every resource you have to buy something infinitely valuable that cost nothing. Is that better? No? Okay, try this; the faith that you were given for free, which guaranteed your eternity with God for free, will cost you everything. Still confused?

These are what are known as paradoxical statements. A paradox is a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when further investigated and explained proves to be well founded or true. I assure you, the above statements are true. Yes, they are absurd on the surface and seemingly contradictory, but they are nevertheless accurate; they are indeed fact.

It's the great paradox. You come to the Lord naked and ashamed, and deserving of nothing. You are a helpless child and have nothing to offer Him. Yet, the Lord says, come buy bread with

money you don't have; use what is in your empty pockets to purchase living water from the fountain of life—an absurd paradox!

Do you see it now? It is the most valuable thing in the universe and you do not have a single asset to offer in exchange. Yet, you partake freely. And suddenly something extraordinary happens. Your eyes are opened and you see everything before you that must be left behind you. Everything you were, all you held as sacred, each dear thing from which you crafted your persona, formed your identity, and derived your self-worth, you must now let die. Everything? Yes everything! You have become a new creature; it had cost you nothing and now it will cost you everything.

“What must I do to become a disciple?” That becomes the burning question; that becomes the only relevant question. And the answer becomes the only thing that matters. Y’shua said, “He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit.” In other words, the fruit one produces is the evidence that one has become a true disciple. But, unless a seed falls into the ground and dies, it cannot produce fruit. Those who received that free faith, who freely ate the bread and drank from the fountain must now forsake all, even their very lives. If that is you, it will cost you everything for this thing that cost you nothing. It’s obviously absurd and seemingly contradictory. But, now that we’ve further investigated, it has proven to be well founded and true. It’s the greatest of all paradoxes!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“Therefore understand that the Lord your **God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness**, for you are a stiff-necked people.” Deuteronomy 9:6 NKJV

“And now, Israel, **what does the LORD your God require of you**, but to **fear the LORD** your God, to **walk in all His ways** and to **love Him**, to **serve the LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to **keep the commandments** of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“For they being **ignorant of God’s righteousness**, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, have **not submitted to the righteousness of God.**” Romans 10:3 NKJV

“For I determined not to know anything among you **except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**” I Corinthians 2:2 NKJV

“So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all** that he has **cannot be My disciple.**” Luke 14:33 NKJV

““I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that **does not bear fruit He takes away**; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**”
John 15:1-2 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The name of this portion of Deuteronomy translated into English is "On the Heels". Why? Because it speaks of the rewards that will come to Israel on the heels of keeping God's covenant and commandments.

Deuteronomy 7

2. **Blessings for Obedience:** *"Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers."* (Deuteronomy 7:12)
3. And He will love you and bless you and multiply you [in all these ways]:
 - (a) The fruit of your womb, land, and livestock.
 - (b) No one will be barren among you or among your livestock.
 - (c) No sickness will afflict you, but sickness will be on those who hate you.
 - (d) You shall destroy, without pity, all the peoples whom Yahweh delivers over to you (Do not serve their gods!).
 - (e) No need to fear; remember Pharaoh and Egypt. That's what will happen to your enemies.
 - (f) Any enemies left after that will be scattered into hiding by hornets.

- (g) This will happen slowly and systematically, so you are not left with so much livestock as booty that you cannot manage them.
- (h) All enemies and their kings will be destroyed and their king's names blotted out!
- (i) Burn all remnants of their pagan images and do not covet their silver or gold, so you are not overtaken by these temptations.

Deuteronomy 8

- 4. **Remember Yahweh Your God:** *“Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.”* (Deuteronomy 8:1)
- 5. The whole wilderness experience was to humble them and test what would come out of their hearts when they faced all sorts of trials!
 - (a) Would they obey Him anyway?
 - (b) Would they forget Him?
 - (c) Would they hijack His credit for:
 - 1) Supernatural food and water—*“man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”*
 - 2) Garments and shoes that didn't wear out.

- 3) Feet that didn't swell.
- 4) Land so abundant with every necessary resource that they lacked nothing.
- 5) Every victory over their enemies.
6. **Don't Ever Forget:** It is His love for you, coupled with your obedience, your response to that love, that brings you every blessings.
7. Don't ever let pride and arrogance fool you into thinking your blessings were produced by you.
8. You will be tested to see if you have **spiritual amnesia** about all you have gained. Will you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth?" THE ANSWER, OF COURSE, IS NO! It is Yahweh who gives you power to get wealth.
9. If you forget and hijack His credit, you will certainly perish!

Deuteronomy 9

10. Israel's Rebellions Reviewed:

- (a) You will defeat nations greater and mightier than yourself as God goes into the land before you as a consuming fire.
- (b) But don't be mistaken AT ALL that it is your righteousness that put you in this position to take over these stronger nations. It's actually because of their wickedness, plus He wants to fulfill His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

(c) You are a stiff-necked rebellious people who provoked Yahweh to wrath in the wilderness from the moment you left Egypt up until this very moment.

11. Moses reviews the whole Mt. Sinai experience including his forty days and forty nights of fasting food and water, and how Yahweh gave him the two tablets and wrote on them with His own hand. And how he returned to a rebellious people worshipping a golden calf and how he broke the two stones.

12. Then he reminds them that he had to do it again a second time, to go back up the mountain to get new stones. But not before prostrating himself before Yahweh in intercession and another forty days and forty nights of fasting. Had he not interceded for Aaron and the people, Yahweh may have wiped out all of them.

Deuteronomy 10

13. **The Second Pair of Tablets:** This time Moses must cut out two stones himself and bring them to Yahweh on the mountain. Again, Yahweh will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets.

14. The tablets will go into the ark Moses made of acacia wood, two hewed two tablets of stone, like the first, written by the finger of God.

15. From Sinai they set off and Yahweh separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark and to minister before Him. They had no portion nor inheritance in the land, as Yahweh is their inheritance.
16. **The Essence of the Law:** This says it all—*“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”* Deuteronomy 10:12-13
17. Everything in heaven and earth are Yahweh’s and He chose you! Can you appreciate the magnitude of this idea? And because He chose you above all peoples:
- (a) Circumcise the foreskin of your heart.
 - (b) Be stiff-necked no longer.
 - (c) Know that God shows no partiality.
 - (d) Recognize that He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow.
 - (e) Realize that He loves the stranger and so should you, as you also were a stranger in a foreign land at one point (and you may be again).
 - (f) You shall fear Yahweh as the Almighty.
 - (g) You shall serve Him.

(h) You shall take oaths in His name.

Deuteronomy 11

18. **Love and Obedience Rewarded:** You shall love Yahweh and keep His commandments always. Let's be clear, Moses reminds Israel; I am not speaking to people who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the LORD!

19. You have a long list of testimonies to look back on that assure Yahweh's faithfulness, such as these:

- (a) The whole Egypt and exodus story including what He did to Pharaoh's army.
- (b) All He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place.
- (c) A reminder of what He did to those who rebelled, like Dathan and Abiram (They and their families were swallowed in the earth in Korah's rebellion).
- (d) A reminder that your eyes have seen every great act of Yahweh.

20. This long history should inspire you to be obedient and to trust Yahweh when He says, "Go in and possess the land!" (See: [Anti-discombobulated](#))

21. And this land is so much better than the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it. This land drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land God

cares for and that His eyes are on, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

22. And if you earnestly obey God, He will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain. And the land will produce abundantly in every way.
23. Don't let your heart be deceived, if you serve other gods and worship them, the LORD's anger will be aroused against you, and there will be no rain, and the land will yield no produce, and you will perish quickly.
24. And like I told you many times before (see Deuteronomy 6), seal Yahweh's word in your heart:
 - (a) His ways must be on your mind and guide all your actions.
 - (b) Teach them to your children at all times.
 - (c) Operate your household as if these rules govern all things.
 - (d) You and your generations will be blessed.
 - (e) You will overpower the pagan nations before you.
 - (f) Every place the sole of your feet tread shall be yours.
 - (g) No man shall be able to stand against you.
25. If you want to see the last two year's teaching on this portion, go here: [Spiritual Amnesia](#) & [Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why?](#)

NOTHING

1. What does the LORD your God require of you? Nothing!

A. What must I do to become a Christian?

(1) The Gospel of Salvation

(a) Many Versions: all FREE

1. The message of redemption is the foundation of everything in the Bible. Mankind was disconnected from God, had become a slave to sin, and if they were to ever be freed, someone would have to pay the ransom.
2. Hostages can't pay their own ransom. In other words, their release will cost them nothing, but it must cost someone else something.

(2) The Cost

(a) The price was high, very high. It cost Jesus Christ His very life. He substituted His life for yours.

1. "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. **And if anyone sins**, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." I John 2:1-2 NKJV

2. **“for all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, **being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** whom God set forth **as a propitiation by His blood, through faith,** to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,” Romans 3:23-25 NKJV

(3) The Mechanism

- (a) Christ Crucified: only one message matters to the hostage. You need someone to pay your ransom, there is only one person who has the resources to do so, and that someone is Christ. Keep it simple; persuading someone this is true will not work. It is only authentic when God reveals it through His own power.

1. “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. **For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.** I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. **And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words** of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of

men but in the power of God." I Corinthians 2:1-5
NKJV

- (b) Besides, the message of the Gospel of Salvation is utter foolishness to someone who is perishing.
1. "For **the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing**, but **to us who are being saved it is the power of God**. ...but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." I Corinthians 1:18, 24 NKJV
 2. "But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God**, for **they are foolishness** to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Corinthians 2:14 NKJV

B. Many Versions all FREE

- (1) What must I do to become a Christian?
- (a) Believe in Him...
1. "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **"He who believes in Him is not condemned;**

but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:15-18 NKJV

(b) Believe and be Baptized...

1. "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **He who believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:15-16 NKJV

(c) Believe on the Lord, and you will be saved...

1. "And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household."" Acts 16:30-31 NKJV

(d) Repent and be baptized...

1. "Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."" Acts 2:38-39 NKJV

(e) Be baptized and call on the name of the Lord...

1. "For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting?

Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'" Acts 22:15-16
NKJV

(f) Believe in the name of the son and know you have eternal life...

1. "These things I have written to you who **believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." I John 5:13
NKJV

(g) Know that there is no other name by which you can be saved...

1. "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**" Acts 4:12 NKJV

(h) Acknowledge the Son...

1. "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; **he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also**. Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the

Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.” I John 2:22-25 NKJV

(i) Confess your sins...

1. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:8-9 NKJV

(j) Know that Christ suffered for your sins so you could come to God...

1. “**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,** being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,” I Peter 3:18 NKJV

(k) Receive the free gift of God’s grace...

1. “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.” Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

(l) Receive the free gift of eternal life...

1. “For the wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 NKJV

(m) You are justified by faith...

1. “Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”
Romans 5:1 NKJV

(n) You are accounted as righteous by belief—like Abraham...

1. “What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”** Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.” Romans 4:1-4 NKJV

(o) Know that Christ’s righteousness is the end goal...

1. “For they being **ignorant of God’s righteousness**, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. **For Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**” Romans 10:3-4 NKJV

(p) Know that faith comes from the righteousness of Christ...

1. “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have **obtained like precious faith** with us **by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**” II Peter 1:1 NKJV

(q) Call on the name of the Lord!

1. For “whoever **calls on the name of the Lord** shall be saved.”” Romans 10:13 NKJV

C. But after your confession something happens...

(1) The Christian life is like a coin. One side is faith, the other side is what you do with that faith!

(a) We are accounted as righteous by belief—like Abraham... But Abraham’s faith caused him to do something with that faith. It is the work that emanated from his faith that proved his faith was authentic.

1. “What does it profit, my brethren, **if someone says he has faith but does not have works?** Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without

your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”** And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” James 2:14-24 NKJV

2. See: [The Coin Has Two Sides](#)

(2) Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, but...what does it mean to call?

(a) Think about Abraham again. He had faith and work working together. What came first? Could he have done the work without first receiving the gift of faith? Of course not! ***The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him...***

(I Corinthians 2:14) ***“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...”*** (I Corinthians

1:18) Now apply this to any of the many above simple messages of salvation (redemption). In this model, is calling on the name the “faith part” or the “work part”? I submit to you that it is the work part. You could not call on His name had you not first received the free gift of faith through grace. *“For **the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...**”* Your confession does not change your heart; your changed heart causes your confession.

1. “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.** For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”” Romans 10:9-13 NKJV

(3) Flip over the coin, there is writing on the other side!

- (a) And now if we complete Paul’s words that started like this, *“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." (Ephesians 2:8-9) we can see the other side of the faith/works coin. First comes faith, and that is a free gift. Then comes works! And it becomes glaringly obvious that works will cost you something.

1. **"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them.**" Ephesians 2:10 NKJV
 - a) "Was not Abraham our father **justified by works** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? James 2:21
 - b) Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and **by works faith was made perfect?** James 2:22
 - c) You see then that a **man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**" James 2:24

Summary: NOTHING

1. What does the LORD your God require of you? Nothing!

A. What must I do to become a Christian?

(1) The Gospel of Salvation

(a) Many Versions: all FREE

1. The message of redemption is the foundation of everything in the Bible. Mankind was disconnected from God, had become a slave to sin, and if they were to ever be freed, someone would have to pay the ransom.
2. Hostages can't pay their own ransom. In other words, their release will cost them nothing, but it must cost someone else something.

(2) The Cost

- (a) The price was high, very high. It cost Jesus Christ His very life. He substituted His life for yours.

(3) The Mechanism

- (a) Christ Crucified: only one message matters to the hostage. You need someone to pay your ransom, there is only one person who has the resources to do so, and that someone is Christ. Keep it simple; persuading someone this is true will not work. It is only authentic when God reveals it through His own power.
- (b) Besides, the message of the Gospel of Salvation is utter foolishness to someone who is perishing.

B. Many Versions all FREE

- (1) What must I do to become a Christian?
 - (a) Believe in Him...

- (b) Believe and be Baptized...
- (c) Believe on the Lord, and you will be saved...
- (d) Repent and be baptized...
- (e) Be baptized and call on the name of the Lord...
- (f) Believe in the name of the son and know you have eternal life...
- (g) Know that there is no other name by which you can be saved...
- (h) Acknowledge the Son...
- (i) Confess your sins...
- (j) Know that Christ suffered for your sins so you could come to God...
- (k) Receive the free gift of God's grace...
- (l) Receive the free gift of eternal life...
- (m) You are justified by faith...
- (n) You are accounted as righteous by belief—like Abraham...
- (o) Know that Christ's righteousness is the end goal...
- (p) Know that faith comes from the righteousness of Christ...
- (q) Call on the name of the Lord!

C. But after your confession something happens...

- (1) The Christian life is like a coin. One side is faith, the other side is what you do with that faith!
- (a) We are accounted as righteous by belief—like Abraham... But Abraham's faith caused him to do something with that faith. It is the work that emanated from his faith that proved his faith was authentic.
1. See: [The Coin Has Two Sides](#)
- (2) Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, but...what does it mean to call?
- (a) Think about Abraham again. He had faith and work working together. What came first? Could he have done the work without first receiving the gift of faith? Of course not! ***The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him...*** (I Corinthians 2:14) ***For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...*** (I Corinthians 1:18) Now apply this to any of the many above simple messages of salvation (redemption). In this model, is calling on the name the "faith part" or the "work part"? I submit to you that it is the work part. You could not call on His name had you not first received the free gift of faith through grace. ***For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...*** Your

confession does not change your heart; your changed heart causes your confession.

- (3) Flip over the coin, there is writing on the other side!
 - (a) And now if we complete Paul's words that started like this, "*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.***" (Ephesians 2:8-9) we can see the other side of the faith/works coin. First comes faith, and that is a free gift. Then comes works! And it becomes glaringly obvious that works will cost you something.

EVERYTHING

2. What does the LORD your God require of you? Everything!

A. Yahweh's Part & Your Part

- (1) Get your head straight—it's not about you!
 - (a) As soon as you think anything God has done, or will do, for you is about you deserving such, you have strayed from reality. It is never about your righteousness, and always about His! He chose us, not the other way around. He loved us first, not the other way around. Getting this righteousness thing wrong is the source of too many bad doctrines and decisions!

1. **“Do not think in your heart**, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, **‘Because of my righteousness** the Lord has brought me in to possess this land’; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you. **It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart** that you go in to possess their land, **but because of the wickedness** of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness**, for you are a stiff-necked people.” Deuteronomy 9:4-6 NKJV
2. **“You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” John 15:16 NKJV
3. **“We love Him because He first loved us.”** I John 4:19 NKJV

4. “For they being **ignorant of God’s righteousness**, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. **For Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**” Romans 10:3-4 NKJV

(2) Requirements

- (a) Whereas there are zero requirements for God to share His righteousness with us through Christ, there are certainly requirements that come because He has shared His righteousness. What does Yahweh require of you?

1. “And now, Israel, **what does the LORD your God require of you**, but to **fear the LORD** your God, to **walk in all His ways** and to **love Him**, to **serve the LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to **keep the commandments** of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NKJV

- a) **Fear Yahweh:** You must have reverence for God. That means that He is holy and you should behave like you have great concern for His opinion about everything you think, say and do.

- b) **Walk in His ways:** Freedom is when you have no option but to do things God's way. Faith is not just a mental or emotional decision; it is the action that emanates from belief.
- c) **Love Yahweh:** Love is unconditional charity. Do things God's way without concern for what you get in return.
- d) **Serve Yahweh:** A life in which you prefer others over yourself every time. That which you've done to the least of these children is what you have done for God.
- e) **Keep Yahweh's commandments:** Obedience is not an option. And God's laws are not archaic. If God commanded it, it is true, and you should obey it! The love of Jesus and His forgiveness is NEVER an excuse to break God's commands.

B. What must I do to become a disciple? See: [The Coin Has Two Sides](#)

(1) The Gospel of the Kingdom

(a) Many Versions: all COSTLY

1. What does the Lord require of you? Well, we already saw that the cost of redemption was free to you (but cost Y'shua His life).

2. The Kingdom does, however, come with a price tag that you are required to pay.
3. I think we must first define the Kingdom. What eternal redemption signifies or what we commonly call salvation is well understood by most professing Christians. Christ died for your sins and faith in that reality paves the way for you to spend an eternity with God.
4. The Kingdom, the Gospel of the Kingdom, the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of Heaven are not so well understood by most Christians.
5. For the purpose of this study, I will contract this idea down to its simplest form. The Kingdom is at hand when the fullness of God is manifesting in a human.
6. Think Jesus! Jesus was the perfect manifestation of God in man. And how was that perfection achieved? He was sinless and remained sinless unto death. And what does it mean to be sinless? It means to be perfectly obedient to God's laws, because sin is lawlessness (I John 3:4).
7. So, what does it look like when man is sinless?
8. It looks like radical grace-empowered, faith-based obedience to God. It looks like Christ!

(2) Repent the Kingdom of God is at hand...

(a) The kingdom is within you...

1. "Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, **"The kingdom of God does not come with observation;** nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you.**" Luke 17:20-21 NKJV

(b) John was about to transition from the main event to the opening act! He was pointing toward Christ when he was pointing at the Kingdom within! (Christ was the fullness of God manifesting in human form.) John was saying, "Look at Him!" *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* (John 3:30)

1. "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"**" Matthew 3:1-2 NKJV

(c) After Christ emerged from the wilderness...Christ was pointing at Himself when he was pointing at the Kingdom within! (Christ was the fullness of God manifesting in human form.) He was saying, "Look at Me!" *"I have increased, John has decreased."*

1. "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17 NKJV

(3) The Mechanism: The rest of the story! Gifts are free but maturity is expensive...

(a) It starts like this for the non-believer. The Gospel of Salvation: *"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."* (I Corinthians 2:2) And then it becomes this...The Gospel of the Kingdom.

1. "**However**, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory**, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.** For what man knows the things

of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.** These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him;** nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ."**
[the kingdom is within you!! Corinthians 2:6-16 NKJV]

C. Many Versions—all cost EVERYTHING

(1) The Disciple

(a) Yes you were saved by grace, but you were saved to work!

1. "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. For we are His

workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**" Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV

(b) The rich young ruler inquires, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" This is the question he asked Y'shua, but this was NOT the question Y'shua answered. Y'shua first gives him an answer that strangely does not address, at all, what it takes to have eternal life ("*by grace you have been saved through faith*"). He informs the man that he should keep the commandments. Why? It is because the real question is about what it takes to be perfect, not just born again. It is free to be born again, but it takes radical obedience to be "perfect," (be a true disciple, manifest the kingdom within!)

1. "Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, **what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?**" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. **But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.**" He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your

mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " The young man said to Him, "**All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?**" Jesus said to him, "**If you want to be perfect, go, sell** what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, **follow Me.**" But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."

Matthew 19:16-22 NKJV

(c) Be content. You brought nothing into this life and you won't be exiting with anything in your pockets. Since this is true, you ought to live your life in such a way that you don't spend all of your efforts accumulating things to satisfy yourself. The love of ANYTHING above things that are godly leads to great sorrows.

1. "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.** And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who **desire to be rich** fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 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.” I Timothy 6:6-10 NKJV

2. See: [Godliness with Contentment](#)
- (d) So, since your focus is off this life, when Y’shua teaches us that you might need to surrender this life and all that is in it to follow Him, to be His disciple, you should not be shaken. As you count the cost of this disciple-status, you will realize that surrendering everything is a good deal! Any sacrifice less than that is as good as salt that has no saltiness, which is useless.
1. “Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, **“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.** And **whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? Or what king, going to

make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. **So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.** “Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Luke 14:25-35 NKJV

(2) The Old Man

(a) Let us consider this very difficult to understand idea. We must move beyond the concept, the mental assent, and make it real in our lives. The old you is dead; you are a new person in Christ. If you'd fully grasp this, then the idea of Y'shua's words in Luke 14 are not so hard to grasp.

1. “If anyone comes to Me and does not **hate his own life**, he cannot be My disciple. ...Likewise, whoever of you does not **forsake all** that he has cannot be My disciple.” Luke 14:26, 33

(b) I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live...

1. **“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.” Galatians 2:20 NKJV

(c) You are not your own? For you were bought at a price...

1. “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own? For you were bought at a price;** therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

(d) If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...

1. “Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;** old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

(e) Our old man was crucified with Him; he who has died has been freed from sin...

1. “knowing this, **that our old man was crucified with Him,** that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For **he who**

has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,” Romans 6:6-8 NKJV

(f) You have put off the old man and have put on the new man...

1. “Do not lie to one another, since **you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,” Colossians 3:9-10 NKJV

(g) Put off your former conduct, the old man, and put on the new man which was created according to God...

1. “that you **put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV

D. The Mechanism of Discipleship (see: [The Path to the Divine Nature](#))

(1) Like Precious Faith

(a) There is only one type of faith that can redeem you and that is the same faith that Peter had. When he says that

he is addressing those who have that redeeming faith and who obtained that faith like he did, he is thereby addressing all believers and only believers!

1. “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained **like precious faith** with us **by the righteousness** of our God and Savior **Jesus** Christ:” II Peter 1:1 NKJV
- (b) Peter prays that believers have increased knowledge of the Lord. This knowledge is the biblical knowledge of intimacy.
 1. “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,**” II Peter 1:2 NKJV
- (c) Peter teaches us about the power available to us as believers, and that we have this available to us because of the trade we made (the old man for the new man). As such we have everything we need to live a godly life. Of course, Paul taught us that godliness with contentment is great gain! (I Timothy 6:6)
 1. “as His **divine power** has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the knowledge of Him who **called us by glory and virtue,**” II Peter 1:3 NKJV

(d) We are promised unimaginable things in the first chapter of II Peter...

1. “by which have been given to us **exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped the corruption** that is in the world through lust.” II Peter 1:4 NKJV

- a) Access to divine power
- b) We have everything we need for a godly life
- c) We get to participate in the divine nature
- d) We can escape the corruption in the world (lust)
- e) We will be neither barren or unfruitful
- f) We gain an abundant entrance into the Kingdom

(2) The Quintessential Path to Discipleship

(a) These are the seven steps you must build upon the free gift of faith that brought you into the family of God.

1. “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add** to your **faith** virtue, to **virtue** knowledge, to **knowledge** self-control, to **self-control** perseverance, to **perseverance** godliness, to **godliness** brotherly kindness, and to **brotherly kindness love**.” II Peter 1:5-7 NKJV

- a) **Virtue**—always the first thing that follows faith and must precede all others, or your coordinates will ALWAYS be off target! Ask...what is right in God's eyes?
- b) **Knowledge**—is what you need to know in order to act wisely! Once you know what is correct you need to know how to do it!
- c) **Self-control**—don't follow your first impulses and desires! Once you know what to do, then do it!
- d) **Perseverance**—doing what is right no matter how hard or how long it takes! You are doing what is right, and you have to keep doing it. Perseverance is permanent self-control.
- e) **Godliness**—let's call this holistic integrity! Do the previous four steps in all areas of life, spirit, soul, and body, and you are living a godly life.
- f) **Brotherly Kindness**—It's simple, but not easy...prefer others! Take all you have gained and put others first in every area!
- g) **Love**—God is love, plain and simple. It is the divine nature you get to participate in. Be like God!

- (b) Disciples are fruitful. Jesus said, *“You will know them by their fruits.”* (Matthew 7:16)
1. *“For if these things are yours and abound, you will be **neither barren nor unfruitful** in the **knowledge of our Lord** Jesus Christ.”* II Peter 1:8 NKJV
 - a) Why is it important to know that everything is built on the free gift of faith? You cannot even begin this process if you are not a believer.
 - b) Why is it critical that the seven steps are presented in a precise order and that they should be applied in the precise order? The answer as an example: if you learn how to do something that God does not want you to do, you will always end in the wrong place! Virtue must precede knowledge, etc.
 - (c) There is ONE THING that will shipwreck this process every time. If you go back to your old sins or don't believe you've been forgiven of your old sins, you will never be “perfect.” Remember Y'shua's word, when asked in Matthew 19, *“What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”* He answered, *“If you want to be perfect...”* You'd better not get stuck in your old sins!

1. “For he who **lacks these things** is **shortsighted, even to blindness**, and has **forgotten that he was cleansed from his old** sins.” II Peter 1:9 NKJV
- (d) Do these things and you will not stumble!
 1. “Therefore, brethren, be even **more diligent to make your call and election sure**, for if you do these things you will **never stumble**; for so an **entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” II Peter 1:10-11 NKJV
 - a) What does it mean to make your election sure?

E. Evidence (and responsibilities) of a Disciple

- (1) First of all, He chose you...
 - (a) You did not choose Him, He chose you to bear fruit!
 1. “**You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should **go and bear fruit**, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” John 15:16 NKJV
 - (b) We are designed to partner with God. We are His human initiative partners. He puts things in our hearts from eternity past, and then He empowers us to do and accomplish them!

1. "Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, And **He shall give** you the desires of your heart." Psalms 37:3-4 NKJV
 - a) Give: to give, bestow, grant, permit
 - b) Give: to be given, to be bestowed, to be granted
- (2) You will know them by their fruits...
 - (a) Fruit is the evidence. And fruit never lies. The fruit always represent the tree it grows on.
 1. "**You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, **every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**" Matthew 7:16-20 NKJV
 2. "**Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?** Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh." James 3:12 NKJV
- (3) You must plant it!
 - (a) Fruit won't grow unless the seed is first planted...Seeds won't multiply unless they are planted!

1. “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, **it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it** for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:24-26 NKJV
- (b) You must plant it in good soil. Good soil yields good return.
 1. “On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying:
“Behold, a sower went out to sow. **And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang**

up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

...“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. **This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places,** this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he **has no root** in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he **who received seed among the thorns** is he who hears the word, and the **cares of this world** and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and **he becomes unfruitful.** But he who **received seed on the good ground** is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed **bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**””

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 NKJV

(c) You must tend to your garden so it multiples!

1. ““For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. **And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability;** and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the **five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.** And likewise **he who had received two gained two more also.** But **he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his Lord’s money.** After a long time the Lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’ He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few

things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his Lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. **‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.** And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” Matthew 25:14-30 NKJV

- (4) You must fertilize it!
 - (a) Fruit is the evidence produced on a branch. If you are the branch, then what grows on the end is the proof of

what tree it is part of. The vine is the root. The branch cannot survive without the root. If you are a true disciple, your fruit will be the evidence that you are attached to the true vine. This is done when we abide in (rest in, connect to, attach to) Christ.

1. **“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches.** He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” John 15:1-8 NKJV

(5) You must care for it!

(a) You must steward every resource faithfully...

1. "Let a man so consider us, as **servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God**. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." I Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV

(6) You must harvest it!

(a) Fruit is useless if it dies on the branch.

1. "Then He said to His disciples, "**The harvest truly is plentiful**, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."" Matthew 9:37-38 NKJV

(7) You must share it!

(a) If you think you are accumulating fruit for yourself and you keep it for yourself, instead of giving it away, you will have it taken from you and given to another. You might as well be generous while you still can!

1. "And He said to them, "**Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.**" Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "**The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.** And he thought within himself, saying, '**What shall I do, since I have**

no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: **I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.** And I will say to my soul, “**Soul, you have many goods** laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! **This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’** “**So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**”” Luke 12:15-21 NKJV

(8) The more you have the more you must give...

(a) Everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required. You must be ready to give it all. The more you have the more you have to give away. When the Lord returns, He will hold you responsible.

1. “And the Lord said, “**Who then is that faithful and wise steward,** whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.** Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female

servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few.

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.” Luke 12:42-48 NKJV

Summary: EVERYTHING

2. What does the LORD your God require of you? Everything!

A. Yahweh's Part & Your Part

- (1) Get your head straight—it's not about you!
 - (a) As soon as you think anything God has done, or will do, for you is about you deserving such, you have strayed from reality. It is never about your righteousness, and always about His! He chose us, not the other way around. He loved us first, not the other way around.

Getting this righteousness thing wrong is the source of too many bad doctrines and decisions!

(2) Requirements

(a) Whereas there are zero requirements for God to share His righteousness with us through Christ, there are certainly requirements that come because He has shared His righteousness. What does Yahweh require of you?

1. **Fear Yahweh:** You must have reverence for God. That means that He is holy and you should behave like you have great concern for His opinion about everything you think, say and do.
2. **Walk in His ways:** Freedom is when you have no option but to do things God's way. Faith is not just a mental or emotional decision; it is the action that emanates from belief.
3. **Love Yahweh:** Love is unconditional charity. Do things God's way without concern for what you get in return.
4. **Serve Yahweh:** A life in which you prefer others over yourself every time. That which you've done to the least of these children is what you have done for God.

5. **Keep Yahweh's commandments:** Obedience is not an option. And God's laws are not archaic. If God commanded it, it is true, and you should obey it! The love of Jesus and His forgiveness is NEVER an excuse to break God's commands.

B. What must I do to become a disciple? See: [The Coin Has Two Sides](#)

(1) The Gospel of the Kingdom

(a) Many Versions: all COSTLY

1. What does the Lord require of you? Well, we already saw that the cost of redemption was free to you (but cost Y'shua His life).
2. The Kingdom does, however, come with a price tag that you are required to pay.
3. I think we must first define the Kingdom. What eternal redemption signifies or what we commonly call salvation is well understood by most professing Christians. Christ died for your sins and faith in that reality paves the way for you to spend an eternity with God.
4. The Kingdom, the Gospel of the Kingdom, the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of Heaven are not so well understood by most Christians.

5. For the purpose of this study, I will contract this idea down to its simplest form. The Kingdom is at hand when the fullness of God is manifesting in a human.
6. Think Jesus! Jesus was the perfect manifestation of God in man. And how was that perfection achieved? He was sinless and remained sinless unto death. And what does it mean to be sinless? It means to be perfectly obedient to God's laws, because sin is lawlessness (I John 3:4).
7. So, what does it look like when man is sinless?
8. It looks like radical grace-empowered, faith-based obedience to God. It looks like Christ!

(2) Repent the Kingdom of God is at hand...

- (a) The kingdom is within you...
- (b) John was about to transition from the main event to the opening act! He was pointing toward Christ when he was pointing at the Kingdom within! (Christ was the fullness of God manifesting in human form.) John was saying, "Look at Him!" *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* (John 3:30)
- (c) After Christ emerged from the wilderness...Christ was pointing at Himself when he was pointing at the Kingdom within! (Christ was the fullness of God

manifesting in human form.) He was saying, “Look at Me!” *“I have increased, John has decreased.”*

- (3) The Mechanism: The rest of the story! Gifts are free but maturity is expensive...
 - (a) It starts like this for the non-believer. The Gospel of Salvation: *“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”* (I Corinthians 2:2) And then it becomes this...The Gospel of the Kingdom.

C. Many Versions—all cost EVERYTHING

- (1) The Disciple
 - (a) Yes you were saved by grace, but you were saved to work!
 - (b) The rich young ruler inquires, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” This is the question he asked Y’shua, but this was NOT the question Y’shua answered. Y’shua first gives him an answer that strangely does not address, at all, what it takes to have eternal life (*“by grace you have been saved through faith”*). He informs the man that he should keep the commandments. Why? It is because the real question is about what it takes to be perfect, not just born again. It is free to be born again, but it takes

radical obedience to be “perfect,” (be a true disciple, manifest the kingdom within!)

- (c) Be content. You brought nothing into this life and you won't be exiting with anything in your pockets. Since this is true, you ought to live your life in such a way that you don't spend all of your efforts accumulating things to satisfy yourself. The love of ANYTHING above things that are godly leads to great sorrows.

1. See: [Godliness with Contentment](#)

- (d) So, since your focus is off this life, when Y'shua teaches us that you might need to surrender this life and all that is in it to follow Him, to be His disciple, you should not be shaken. As you count the cost of this disciple-status, you will realize that surrendering everything is a good deal! Any sacrifice less than that is as good as salt that has no saltiness, which is useless.

(2) The Old Man

- (a) Let us consider this very difficult to understand idea. We must move beyond the concept, the mental assent, and make it real in our lives. The old you is dead; you are a new person in Christ. If you'd fully grasp this, then the idea of Y'shua's words in Like 14 are not so hard to grasp.

- (b) I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live...
- (c) You are not your own? For you were bought at a price...
- (d) If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...
- (e) Our old man was crucified with Him; he who has died has been freed from sin...
- (f) You have put off the old man and have put on the new man...
- (g) Put off your former conduct, the old man, and put on the new man which was created according to God...

D. The Mechanism of Discipleship (see: [The Path to the Divine Nature](#))

(1) Like Precious Faith

- (a) There is only one type of faith that can redeem you and that is the same faith that Peter had. When he says that he is addressing those who have that redeeming faith and who obtained that faith like he did, he is thereby addressing all believers and only believers!
- (b) Peter prays that believers have increased knowledge of the Lord. This knowledge is the biblical knowledge of intimacy.
- (c) Peter teaches us about the power available to us as believers, and that we have this available to us because

of the trade we made (the old man for the new man). As such we have everything we need to live a godly life. Of course, Paul taught us that godliness with contentment is great gain! (I Timothy 6:6)

- (d) We are promised unimaginable things in the first chapter of II Peter...
 1. Access to divine power
 2. We have everything we need for a godly life
 3. We get to participate in the divine nature
 4. We can escape the corruption in the world (lust)
 5. We will be neither barren or unfruitful
 6. We gain an abundant entrance into the Kingdom

(2) The Quintessential Path to Discipleship

- (a) These are the seven steps you must build upon the free gift of faith that brought you into the family of God.
 1. **Virtue**—always the first thing that follows faith and must precede all others, or your coordinates will ALWAYS be off target! Ask...what is right in God's eyes?
 2. **Knowledge**—is what you need to know in order to act wisely! Once you know what is correct you need to know how to do it!

3. **Self-control**—don't follow your first impulses and desires! Once you know what to do, then do it!
 4. **Perseverance**—doing what is right no matter how hard or how long it takes! You are doing what is right, and you have to keep doing it. Perseverance is permanent self-control.
 5. **Godliness**—let's call this holistic integrity! Do the previous four steps in all areas of life, spirit, soul, and body, and you are living a godly life.
 6. **Brotherly Kindness**—It's simple, but not easy...prefer others! Take all you have gained and put others first in every area!
 7. **Love**—God is love, plain and simple. It is the divine nature you get to participate in. Be like God!
- (b) Disciples are fruitful. Jesus said, *"You will know them by their fruits."* (Matthew 7:16)
1. Why is it important to know that everything is built on the free gift of faith? You cannot even begin this process if you are not a believer.
 2. Why is it critical that the seven steps are presented in a precise order and that they should be applied in the precise order? The answer as an example: if you learn how to do something that God does not want you to

do, you will always end in the wrong place! Virtue must precede knowledge, etc.

3. There is ONE THING that will shipwreck this process every time. If you go back to your old sins or don't believe you've been forgiven of your old sins, you will never be "perfect." Remember Y'shua's word, when asked in Matthew 19, "*What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?*" He answered, "*If you want to be perfect...*" You'd better not get stuck in your old sins!

(c) Do these things and you will not stumble!

1. What does it mean to make your election sure?

E. Evidence (and responsibilities) of a Disciple

(1) First of all, He chose you...

(a) You did not choose Him, He chose you to bear fruit!

(b) We are designed to partner with God. We are His human initiative partners. He puts things in our hearts from eternity past, and then He empowers us to do and accomplish them!

1. Give: to give, bestow, grant, permit

2. Give: to be given, to be bestowed, to be granted

(2) You will know them by their fruits...

- (a) Fruit is the evidence. And fruit never lies. The fruit always represent the tree it grows on.
- (3) You must plant it!
 - (a) Fruit won't grow unless the seed is first planted...Seeds won't multiply unless they are planted!
 - (b) You must plant it in good soil. Good soil yields good return.
 - (c) You must tend to your garden so it multiples!
- (4) You must fertilize it!
 - (a) Fruit is the evidence produced on a branch. If you are the branch, then what grows on the end is the proof of what tree it is part of. The vine is the root. The branch cannot survive without the root. If you are a true disciple, your fruit will be the evidence that you are attached to the true vine. This is done when we abide in (rest in, connect to, attach to) Christ.
- (5) You must care for it!
 - (a) You must steward every resource faithfully...
- (6) You must harvest it!
 - (a) Fruit is useless if it dies on the branch.
- (7) You must share it!
 - (a) If you think you are accumulating fruit for yourself and you keep it for yourself, instead of giving it away, you

will have it taken from you and given to another. You might as well be generous while you still can!

(8) The more you have the more you must give...

(a) Everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required. You must be ready to give it all. The more you have the more you have to give away. When the Lord returns, He will hold you responsible.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. The personal cost of our eternal redemption was nothing. But

what did it cost Christ? (See: I John 2:1-2; Romans 3:23-25)

A. What does propitiation mean?

B. What is the sole message to the unbeliever and why must it remain simple? (See I Corinthians 2:1-5)

2. Use the following verses to craft a narrative that proves this concept...

A. Mankind was disconnected from God, had become a slave to sin, and if they were to ever be freed, someone would have to pay the ransom. Hostages can't pay their own ransom. Their release will cost them nothing, but it must cost someone else something.

B. Verses: I John 2:1-2; Romans 3:23-25, 6:23, 5:1, 4:1-4, 10:3-4, 13; I Corinthians 2:1-5; John 3:15-18; I John 5:13,

2:22-25, 1:8-9; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 16:30-31, 2:38-39,
22:15-16, 4:12; I Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9; II Peter 1:1

- 3. Why is the message of the Gospel of Salvation utter foolishness to a non-Christian? (See: I Corinthians 1:18, 24, 2:14)**
- 4. The Christian life is like a coin. One side is faith, the other side is what you do with that faith!**
 - A. Use James 2:14-24 and Ephesians 2:8-10 to support this idea and to add clarity to Romans 4:1-4.
 - B. What is the faith part and what is the work part in Romans 10:9-13?
- 5. What is it about righteousness that God wants to make clear to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 9:4-6?**
 - A. How do John 15:16 and I John 4:19 support Deuteronomy 9:4-6?
 - B. How did a wrong understanding of righteousness manifest?
(See Romans 10:3-4)
- 6. We have already studied in depth, in question 2B, that the cost of redemption to us was free.**
 - A. How does Deuteronomy 10:12-13 seem to contradict that?
 - B. What are the five requirements mentioned.
 - C. If it indeed is not a contradiction, to what other than redemption could this be referring?

7. The idea of something being required does not jive with the free gift of faith.

- A. How does I Corinthians 2:1-5 speak a message to the unbeliever about what is free?
- B. How does I Corinthians 2:6-16 speak a message to the believer about everything that come after what was free?

8. What is the rich young ruler asking in Matthew 19:16-22?

- A. What questions is Y'shua really answering?
- B. How does Ephesians 2:8-10 speak to that process?
- C. How does I Timothy 6:6-10 speak to the rich man's dilemma?

9. There are many Bible passages that teach us about what should follow your free conversion to the faith.

- A. Use Luke 14:25-35 describe what it takes.
- B. How does Galatians 2:20 and I Corinthians 6:19-20 support Y'shua's words in Luke?

10. What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ?

- A. Use II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:6-8; Colossians 3:9-10 and Ephesians 4:22-24 to craft your answer.

11. What is the seven step discipleship process described in II Peter 1:1-11?

- A. What is the single thing that can disrupt the process (Hint: see verse 9).
- B. How does verse 9 show up in your life?

12. When someone is a disciple of Christ, there are evidence and responsibilities...

- A. What is the evidence? (See: Matthew 7:16-20; John 15:1-8)
- B. Describe the relationship between the fruit, branch and vine in John 15:1-8.
- C. How does abiding nourish the branch and fruit?
- D. Use the following passages to describe the responsibilities of a disciple. (John 12:24-26; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, 25:14-30, 9:37-38; I Corinthians 4:1-2; Luke 12:15-21, 42-48)