



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 7
- Psalms 139:1-24
- Luke 8:40-56
- Daniel 1:1-21
- Jeremiah 23:1-40
- Romans 2:5-13
- I Corinthians 10:1-13

## SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

- Introduction
  - A Sober Self-Examination
  - Deep Inner Desires
  - The Wide and Narrow Gate
  - Taste the Fruit
  - Your Real Identity
  - The Foundation of Life

*I don't decide what is true; I just report it. And quite frankly, it does not matter if you like it or not. Truth does not bias itself; and it has no allegiance to anything, other than itself. And maybe the worst part about the truth is that it hurts sometimes. You've heard that phrase, haven't you? Here's why it hurts. The truth exposes pretense, everything that isn't right, real and authentic; and unfortunately for many of us, gentle Jesus is a specialist in truth.*

*"Truly, truly I say to you..." Y'shua said that twenty five times in John's Gospel. And that leading phrase with a single "truly" appears fifty additional times in the other three Gospels. "Truly" is*

*the word translated as Amen, from both the Greek and the Hebrew, and when it inaugurates an idea, it claims something about the nature of the truth that follows. It asserts that the claimant has intimate, personal, and firsthand knowledge about, and authority over the subject matter. When repeated, as in “truly, truly,” it is an almost audacious claim from Y’shua that the truth that follows is His own original idea. Y’shua is saying that He is not merely aware of these truths, He is the originator and author of them. That itself was revolutionary! Why?*

*What is so rattling about Y’shua staking claim to those original ideas? Sure, claiming that an idea is original is both radical and presumptuous. But, it becomes even more tortuous when we overlay Y’shua’s assertion that He also said nothing, other than what His Father told Him to say. Think about the implications of His claim; “This truth originates from Me, and I only echo My Father’s words.” So, how could all those ideas have originated from Him, unless... unless He was also boldly proclaiming that He and His Father are ONE? This too is a radical paradigm-shifting revelation, truth worthy of, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM; and He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”*

*It’s time to grab the shovel! Dust off the archeologist’s pick. Sharpen the scalpel; we are about to do some exploratory truth surgery! We are going to unpack the truths that literally separate*

*God's people from everyone else. Are you willing to square off with reality; to become completely vulnerable to truth? If you dare submit yourself to this experimental procedure, first sign off on the release of liability—because someone is going to get hurt. Yes, too often the truth hurts.*

*Let's get started, but to participate you must be willing to measure your temperature by each of these six degrees of separation. Truly, truly... (1) submit yourself to an intense sober self-examination; (2) expose your deepest inner desires; (3) pick the gate that leads to either the wide or narrow road; (4) let others taste the fruit that grows on your tree; (5) look into the mirror and face your real identity; (6) and choose the foundation on which to build your life. Oh, and if you think you can fake any of it, know this: "Truly, truly, no one can hide from the Originator of truth; all things are naked and exposed to Him, and you will be held accountable to everything He sees, which is, well, everything—truly, truly.*

### **PROPHETIC SEED:**

*"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for **He taught them as one having authority**, and not as the scribes." Matthew 7:28-29 NKJV*

“And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 NKJV

“And **you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy**, and **have separated you** from the peoples, that you should be Mine.” Leviticus 20:26 NKJV

### PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“**Search me, O God**, and know my heart; **Try me**, and know my anxieties; And **see if there is any wicked way in me**, And lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalms 139:23-24 NKJV

“**But let a man examine himself**, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and **drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body**.” I Corinthians 11:28-29 NKJV

“For **the word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**. And **there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account**.” Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV

# Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

## Introduction

Last week we tackled Matthew 6 in a message titled: [Tomorrow Never Comes](#). You were introduced to the secret place. This is where you perform your good deeds, offer your prayers, and do your fasting. No man needs to recognize these things; and if you put them on full display for man to see, man's acknowledgment of them will be your entire reward. Keep all these things private and let God be your reward.

We also saw the model prayer (the Lord's Prayer / the Our Father) with all the key components to include in your prayer life. Two things stood out about prayer. Do not sound like a broken record; endless repetition is actually a characteristic of pagan prayer. And be authentic with your forgiveness; it's a requirement for being forgiven!

The next emphasis was about your heart and that which you treasure most. What you value greatest will be obvious to everyone. And if your priorities are the things of the world; they will all amount to nothing in the end. You cannot truly serve God and the treasures of the world at the same time. You must choose.

We were also introduced to a magnificent revelation. When we think of the human eye, we "see" it as a receiver of light only. But,

God also shows us that it operates as a transmitter as well, of either light or darkness. Certainly on one side of the two-edged-sword is that what you look upon and take in through your eyes affects your entire being (spirit, soul and body). But here, because Y'shua compared a lamp to the human eye, an object that shines light, you must also be concerned for what your eyes are transmitting.

And lastly, we were taught how to recognize where our greatest concerns await. You are either concerned for all of the provisions of the world; that is a pagan way of life, or, you are concerned for God's priorities, the things of Kingdom of Heaven. In the end, worrying about worldly things should be designated to the proper time—never!

This week we peer into the last chapter in the Sermon the Mount. For reasons you will see, it might be the most challenging section of all. Why? Because it forces us into a deep self-examination. Have you looked inside your own heart? Are you seeking the things of God with all the right motives? What path are you walking and what fruit are you bearing? And, in the end, what will you be known for? Have you built a life of faith on a solid foundation, or is it all a house of cards? The testing is coming and the truth will be known by all, but especially two: Him and you!

## **Matthew 7**

### **Have you performed a true self-examination?**

1. Judge others carefully because the measure you use will be used against you.
2. Don't get caught up in a brother's small indiscretions before you are aware of and correct the massive sins weighing you down.
3. It's hypocrisy to ignore your own major faults while you nit pick at the faults of others.
4. Handle your own issues and then get involved as an arbiter.
5. One more warning: even if you are perfectly prepared to judge others, use discretion because not everyone is interested in kingdom values; don't waste your time on those who don't care.

### **What are your true desires?**

6. Ask, seek, and knock; and you will receive, find, and have open doors. If an earthly father would respond to such petitions, how much more certain can you be about your Heavenly Father's response to your supplication!
7. Always consider others first. The Law and the Prophets instruct us to love others as we love ourselves. And Paul affirms we should already consider others first.

### **What is your true gate?**

8. We are called to take the narrow path.

9. The wide road (occupied by the many who are evil) leads to destruction.
10. The narrow road (occupied by the righteous few) leads to life.
11. Do not go the way of the many who do evil!

### **What is your true fruit?**

12. Beware of false prophets, who are wolves, but look like sheep.
13. Skip what they look like and examine their fruits.
14. Fruits don't lie—bad trees bear bad fruit, and bad trees must be cut down and thrown into the fire.
15. It is important to identify false prophets.

### **What is your true identity?**

16. Those that do the will of the Father are those who are true believers, not those who practice lip service.
17. Those who fake it can be identified as such... they practice lawlessness!
18. Y'shua has never had any authentic intimacy with such people.

### **What is your true foundation?**

19. **Hear and obey:** a wise man builds his house on the rock (Christ). That house will stand through every adversity.
20. **Hear and disobey:** a foolish man builds his house on the sand (Christian pretense). A great fall will come in adversity.
21. The people are astonished at Y'shua's teaching: He has true authority, not like the scribes.



## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Truth... “Truth is reality!”

#### A. Six Degrees of Separation...

(1) Six degrees of separation is normally used to convey the idea that all people are six or fewer social connections (friend of a friend) away from each other.

(a) In my distinction there are six **Temperature Readings (Truth Assessments)** that separate God’s people from everyone else.

(b) Six Degrees of Separation

1) Your intense sober self-examination...

2) Your deepest inner desires...

3) The gate you choose leading to either the wide road or narrow road...

4) The sweetness of fruit that grows on your tree...

5) Your real identity when faced in a mirror...

6) The foundation on which you build your life...

(c) Six Degrees of Separate = Set Apart = Holy!

1) “And **you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy,** and **have separated you** from the peoples, that you should be Mine.” Leviticus 20:26 NKJV

- 2) “but as He who called you is holy, **you also be holy in all your conduct**, because it is written, “**Be holy, for I am holy.**”” 1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV (Lev. 11:44-45)

(2) Truly

- (a) Wrap your mind around “truly” because we are about to get real! And the truth hurts sometimes!

1. ...*tell me truly what you want to do*: truthfully, honestly, frankly, candidly, openly, to someone’s face...
2. ...*I’m truly grateful to them all*: sincerely, genuinely, really, indeed, from the bottom of one’s heart, heartily, profoundly, extremely, exceptionally, exceedingly, immensely, uncommonly, incredibly...
3. ...*a truly dreadful song*: really, absolutely, utterly, totally, beyond, perfectly, thoroughly, completely...
4. ...*this is truly a miracle*: without (a) doubt, unquestionably, undoubtedly, certainly, surely, definitely, beyond doubt, beyond question, indubitably, undeniably...
5. ...*this does not truly reflect the child’s ability*: accurately, correctly, exactly, precisely, faithfully, closely, unerringly.

(b) Greek and Hebrew

1. Amen! ([Strong's Greek 281](#): of Hebrew origin)

a) At the end of a sentence:

- 1) “So let it be or so be it.” (The term is an expression of complete and total agreement.)
- 2) Placing the word *amen* at the end of a statement is a way of accepting, agreeing, or endorsing what came before.
- 3) It is an expression of faith.

b) At the start of a sentence (Y’shua is the only One in the Bible who does so):

- 1) Y’shua introduces certain topics by using phrases such as “Verily, I say” or “Truly, truly, I say this to you.”
- 2) It asserts that the claimant has intimate, personal, and firsthand knowledge about, and authority over the subject matter.
- 3) When repeated, as in “truly, truly,” it is a claim that the truth that follows is an original idea.
- 4) The speaker is not merely aware of these truths, He is the originator and author of them.

## **B. Samples: revolutionary truths “originated” through Y’shua...**

### **(1) Truly**

#### **(a) “Truly, I say to you...”**

1. **“...unless you are converted and become as little children,** you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3 NKJV
2. **“...all sins will be forgiven** the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but **he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness,** but is subject to eternal condemnation” —” Mark 3:28-29 NKJV
3. **“...whoever says to this mountain,** ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, **whatever things you ask when you pray, believe** that you receive them, and you will have them.” Mark 11:23-24 NKJV

### **(2) Truly, Truly**

#### **(a) “Truly, truly I say to you...”**

1. **“...unless one is born again,** he cannot see the kingdom of God.”” John 3:3 NKJV

2. "...**the Son can do nothing of Himself**, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as **the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.**" John 5:19-21 NKJV
3. "...**he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life**, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ...the hour is coming, and now is, when **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God**; and those who hear will live." John 5:24-25 NKJV
4. "...Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, **but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.** For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 6:32-35 NKJV

5. “...**unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.** Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.” John 6:53-55 NKJV
6. “...**whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.** And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore **if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**” John 8:34-36 NKJV
7. “...if anyone keeps My word **he shall never see death.**” John 8:51 NKJV
8. “...**before Abraham was, I AM.**” John 8:58 NKJV
9. “...he who does not enter the sheepfold **by the door,** but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ...**I am the door** of the sheep.” John 10:1, 7 NKJV
10. “...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

11. [after He had washed their feet] "...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." John 13:16 NKJV

12. "...**he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do,** because I go to My Father. And **whatever you ask in My name, that I will do,** that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **"If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."** John 14:12-14 NKJV

13. "...**whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.** Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:23-24 NKJV

## A SOBER SELF-EXAMINATION

### 2. Have you performed a true self-examination?

#### A. Submit yourself to an intense sober self-examination!

(1) Preparing as a judge

(a) The measure you use...

1. **“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.” Matthew 7:1-6 NKJV**

- a) Judge others carefully because the measure you use will be used against you.
- b) Don’t get caught up in a brother’s small indiscretions before you are aware of and correct the massive sins weighing you down.
- c) It’s hypocrisy to ignore your own major faults while you nit pick at the small faults of others.

(2) Handle your own issues first; then you can get involved as an arbiter.



(a) Be in complete control of your own mind!

1. “[bring] **every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, [then be] ready to punish all disobedience [after] **your obedience is fulfilled.**” II Corinthians 10:5-6

- a) Take a look at yourself and get your own stuff handled before you insert yourself as a judge of others.
- b) And as we learned in Matthew 5, it’s not just our actions that must be brought into obedience to Christ, but our minds! *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, but I say to you...”*

(b) Quintessential Hypocrisy

1. “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, **whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.** But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those **practicing such things, and doing the same**, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not

knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart **you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God**, who “**will render to each one according to his deeds**”: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.” Romans 2:1-11 NKJV

- a) Do you practice the things you are condemning in others? If you do...
  - 1) You will experience God’s wrath in the day of the righteous judgment.
  - 2) He will render to each one according to his deeds. (**Note:** *not because deeds save someone, but because deeds are evidence of salvation!*)

- 3) **Eternal life:** to those who persevere in doing good, as they seek to glorify and honor God because of their immortality!
- 4) **Tribulation and anguish:** to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth!

**B. One more warning:**

(1) Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine...

(a) Y'shua explained it elsewhere like this...

1. “**he who receives** whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me **receives Him who sent Me.**”

John 13:20

2. [However] “**whoever will not receive you nor hear your words**, when you depart from that house or city, **shake off the dust from your feet.**” Matthew 10:14

NKJV

a) Even if you are perfectly prepared to judge others, use discretion because not everyone is interested in kingdom values

b) Don't waste your time on those who don't care.

- 1) **Clarification:** Sometimes the word is not received because the recipient is not ready, and sometimes it's not received because the

messenger is not ready! (See [Apostolic Footprints](#))

### C. Self-Examination

(1) Examine Yourself!

(a) Show me your faith...

1. “But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves. For **if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer**, he is like a man **observing his natural face in a mirror**; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately **forgets** what kind of man he was. But **he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer** of the work, this one will be blessed **in what he does.**” James 1:22-25 NKJV

a) Are you obeying God or just talking about obeying God?

(2) Nothing is hidden from God

(a) You have searched me... Search me, O God!

1. “O Lord, **You have searched me and known me. You know** my sitting down and my rising up; **You understand** my thought afar off. **You comprehend** my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a **word on my tongue**, But

behold, O Lord, **You know it altogether.** You have **hedged me behind and before,** And **laid Your hand upon me.** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. **Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?** If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. **For You formed my inward parts;** You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, **And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You,** When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. **Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.** And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. **How precious**

**also are Your thoughts to me, O God!** How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. **Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me,** And lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalms 139:1-24 NKJV

- (b) For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.
1. “Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **But let a man examine himself,** and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this

reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. **For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.** But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.” I Corinthians 11:27-32 NKJV

(c) All things are naked and exposed...

1. **“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword,** piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight,** but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV

(3) Self-examination vs. Self-condemnation

(a) An examination is mandatory!

1. Psalms 139:1-24

- a) God has searched me and knows me.
- b) There is nowhere I can go to hide from God’s Spirit or flee from God’s presence!
- c) God formed my inward parts (so He knows everything about me!).

d) My soul knows very well that my frame is not hidden from God.

e) Search me, O God, and know my heart!

2. I Corinthians 11:27-32

a) Let a man examine himself...

b) If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged (presumably because with the aide of the Holy Spirit we would alter our behavior).

3. Hebrews 4:12-13

a) The word of God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

b) There is no creature hidden from His sight!

(b) Condemnation is optional!

1. "There is **therefore now no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**" Romans 8:1 NKJV

a) You are certainly being examined by God, and you are clearly instructed to be proactive and to examine yourself. And there is no doubt you SHOULD BE convicted by your sins.



- b) But, that is different from condemnation, which is reserved for those who CHOOSE to walk by the flesh and to follow the dictates of their own hearts.
- c) There is an important teaching about to which spirit you identify with most often, and to which you are listening and obeying (an excerpt from [Best Supporting Actor](#)). I chose to repeat it in this sermon in the section about Identity (Section 6).
- d) It could have easily been included here or in Section 4 about the Gate you choose to walk through and the path you choose to walk on.
- e) Have you performed a true self-examination?

## DEEP INNER DESIRES

### 3. What are your true inner desires?

#### A. Expose your deepest inner desires...

##### (1) Desires

##### (a) Ask—Seek—Knock

1. **“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for**

bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! **Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.**" Matthew 7:7-12 NKJV

- a) Ask, seek, and knock; and you will receive, find, and have open doors.
  - b) If an earthly father would respond to such petitions, how much more certain can you be about your Heavenly Father's response to your supplication!
  - c) The Law and the Prophets instruct us to always consider others first when you make requests.
- (b) Whoever desires...
- 1. "Then He said to them all, **"If anyone desires** to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross** daily, and **follow Me**. For **whoever desires** to **save his life** will lose it, but whoever **loses his life** for My sake will save it." Luke 9:23-24 NKJV
  - a) Deny yourself...

- b) Take up your cross daily...
- c) Give up your life to follow Him...

## (2) The Heart

- (a) A man's heart reveals a man's deep inner desires
  - 1. "As in water face reflects face, **So a man's heart reveals the man.**" Proverbs 27:19 NKJV
  - 2. "...For **out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**" Luke 6:45 NKJV
  - 3. For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**" Matthew 6:21 NKJV
- a) See [Tomorrow Never Comes](#)

## B. Ask—Seek—Knock Stipulations

### (1) Proper Asking

- (a) With supplication and thanks...
  - 1. "Be **anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God;" Philippians 4:6 NKJV
- a) Don't have anxiety
- b) Be earnest and humble
- c) Be thankful
- (b) Be Fervent and righteous...
  - 1. "**Confess your trespasses** to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The **effective**,

**fervent prayer** of a **righteous** man avails much.”

James 5:16 NKJV

- a) Be passionate and intense
- b) Live a virtuous, upright and principled life (in God’s eyes).
- (c) Have faith and perseverance...
  - 1. “And He said to her, “Daughter, be of good cheer; **your faith has made you well.** Go in peace.”” Luke 8:48 NKJV
    - a) The woman with the issue of blood for 12 years pressed through the tight crowd just to touch the fringe of Y’shua’s garment because she had faith it would heal her. (See: [The Reason](#))
  - 2. “When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “**Woman, where are those accusers of yours?** Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; **go and sin no more.**” Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “**I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**”” John 8:10-12 NKJV

- a) The woman accused of adultery was released as her sins were put behind her. What then?
  - b) Go and sin no more!
  - c) Reject the darkness and follow the Light of the world.
- (d) Be unafraid and confident...
1. "While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, **"Your daughter is dead.** Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, **"Do not be afraid; only believe,** and she will be made well.'" Luke 8:49-50 NKJV
- a) Jairus was the leader of the synagogue in Capernaum.
  - b) His daughter was near death when he sought Y'shua to heal her.
  - c) By the time he arrived home she had already died.
  - d) He was encouraged by Christ to reject fear, and to instead believe.
- (e) Ask in His Name...
1. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And

**whatever you ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**" John 14:12-14 NKJV

(f) Ask in His will...

1. "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, **whatever we ask, we know that we have** the petitions that we have asked of Him." I John 5:14-15 NKJV

(g) Ask without doubts...

1. "But **let him ask in faith, with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind." James 1:6 NKJV

(h) Ask with right motives...

1. "You ask and do not receive, **because you ask amiss**, that you may spend it on your pleasures." James 4:3 NKJV

- a) If you are seeking the Lord and it is all about satisfying your own carnal desires, then you are asking amiss.

b) *“If you cannot be fulfilled WITHOUT the things you are seeking, then you will never be truly satisfying WITH them!”*

(i) Ask with others in mind...

1. “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV
  2. “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**” Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV
  3. “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference to one another;**” Romans 12:10 NKJV
  4. “Let no one seek his own, **but each one the other’s well-being.**” I Corinthians 10:24 NKJV
- a) Always consider others first.
  - b) The Law and the Prophets instruct us to love others as we love ourselves.

- c) Paul affirms we should give preference to others by always considering their interests ahead of your own.
- d) What are your true inner desires?

## THE WIDE AND NARROW GATE

### 4. What is your true gate?

#### A. Pick the gate that leads to either the wide or narrow road!

##### (1) Gates and Roads

##### (a) Choose the difficult path!

1. **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”** Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV

- a) We are called to take the narrow path.
- b) The wide road (occupied by the many who are evil) leads to destruction.
- c) The narrow road (occupied by the few who are righteous) leads to life.

##### (2) Do not go the way of the many who do evil!

- (a) Do not incline yourself to the majority!



1. **“You shall not follow a crowd to do evil;** nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside **after many to pervert justice.”** Exodus 23:2 NKJV
  - a) The majority tends to pervert what is right.
- (b) Do not incline yourself to anything evil!
  1. **“Do not incline my heart to any evil thing,** to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; And **do not let me eat of their delicacies.”** Psalms 141:4 NKJV
    - a) Keep your heart far from men of sin
    - b) What they offer will seem very delicious
    - c) But, if you look closely you will notice their pleasures are contrary to the things of God.
- (c) Daniel stayed on the narrow path...
  1. **“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies,** nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” Daniel 1:8 NKJV
    - a) Daniel opted to obey the commands of his God instead of eating the king’s delicacies (unclean foods).

## **B. Choosing the Narrow Road**

(1) What does it look like when you pass through the narrow gate?

(a) First understand that God's grace does two things...

1. "For **the grace of God** that **brings salvation** has appeared to all men, **teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live** soberly, righteously, and godly **in the present age**," Titus 2:11-12 NKJV

a) NUMBER ONE: Grace saves us....

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

a. God gifts us with grace which empowers us with the faith to believe unto salvation.

2) "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

a. Everyone whoever comes to faith does so the same way—through His righteousness, not our own!

b) NUMBER TWO: Grace instructs us (empowers us) to live a certain way!

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

2) “**Grace** and peace **be multiplied to you** in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, **as His divine power** [grace] has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 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 1:2-4

NKJV

a. Men can access that grace so they can reject ungodliness and worldly lusts.

b. Grace instructs us (empowers us)...To live **soberly** (self-restrained), **righteously** (pleasing to Yahweh), and **godly** lives (imitating Yahweh) in the present age (right now!).

(2) Grace for a secure eternity PLUS a better now!

(a) Exercise vs. Exercise....

1. “For **bodily exercise** profits a little, but **godliness** is profitable for all things, having promise **of the life that now is and of that which is to come.**” I Timothy 4:8 NKJV

a) Physical exercise is beneficial in the present age (right now!)

b) Exercise in godliness has both temporal (in the present age right now!) benefits, and for an eternity!

(b) Grace vs. Grace

1. “Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also **we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

a) Yes... “by grace you have been saved through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8)

b) But also... we have access to that grace to apply to the life we are living right now!

c) That is how you stay on the narrow road!

d) What is your true gate?

## TASTE THE FRUIT

### 5. What is your true fruit?

#### A. Let others taste the fruit that grows on your tree!

(1) How can you truly know someone?

(a) Examine the fruits of their life!

1. **“Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **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 7:15-20 NKJV

- a) Beware of false prophets, who are wolves, but look like sheep.
- b) Skip what they look like and examine their fruits.
- c) Fruits don’t lie—bad trees bear bad fruit, and good trees bear good fruit.
- d) Bad trees must be cut down and burned.

(2) What does rotten fruit look like?

(a) Presumptuous words that don’t come to pass...

1. “But the **prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name**, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘**How shall we know** the word which the Lord has not spoken?’— when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, **if the thing does not happen or come to pass**, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; **the prophet has spoken it presumptuously**; you shall not be afraid of him.” Deuteronomy 18:20-22 NKJV
  - a) A man who speaks from his own authority will predict things that won’t happen.
  - b) The fruit dies on the vine!
- (b) Visions of their own heart...
  1. “Thus says the Lord of hosts: “**Do not listen to the words of the prophets** who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; **They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord. They continually say** to those who despise Me, ‘The Lord has said, “**You shall have peace**” ’; **And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart**, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’ ”” Jeremiah 23:16-17 NKJV (Read all of Jeremiah 23)

- a) A man who speaks from his own vision encourages people to follow their own hearts, even when it contradicts God's word!
- (c) Exclusive prophecies...
  - 1. "knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation**, for prophecy never came by the will of man, **but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**" II Peter 1:20-21 NKJV
  - a) A man with rotten fruit enjoys his own private interpretation of prophecy.

## **B. Identifying Edible Fruit**

- (1) What does good (sweet) fruit look like?
  - (a) Love!
    - 1. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another." John 13:35 NKJV
    - a) The single greatest sign of healthy fruit is the love we show for others.
  - (b) Repentance!
    - 1. "Therefore **bear fruits worthy of repentance...**" Luke 3:8 NKJV
    - a) Fruit: true contrition and sorrow for anything that displeases God!

(c) The Fruit of the Spirit

1. “But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.** Against such **there is no law.** And those who are Christ’s **have crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires. **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**” Galatians 5:22-25

NKJV

- a) The fruit of the Spirit has nine qualities manifesting simultaneously.
- b) Each characteristic is tangible in those who display this fruit.
- c) It can be tasted, touched, seen, heard and felt.
- d) There is no law of God that is not also being simultaneously fulfilled while displaying the fruit of the Spirit.
- e) In other words, you cannot disobey God and bear the fruit of the Spirit at the same time.
- f) That is why those growing the fruit of the Spirit on their tree have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires!
- g) What is your true fruit?



## YOUR REAL IDENTITY

### 6. What is your true identity?

#### A. Look in the mirror and face your real identity!

(1) Lawlessness: It's more serious than you realize!

(a) Does He know you?

1. **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”** Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

a) True believers do the will of the Father.

b) Imposters practice lip service.

c) Those who fake it can be identified as practitioners of lawlessness!

d) **A must listen:** [On Collision Course!](#) (This teaching explains how the law of God applies to Christians and how law and grace operate together.)

(2) Y'shua says He has never had any authentic intimacy with practitioners of lawlessness!

(a) What is lawlessness?

1. “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. **And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins**, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.”

I John 3:4-6 NKJV

- a) Sin is Lawlessness...
  - b) We are redeemed from a lawless life.
  - c) He came to take away our sins!
  - d) He came to take away our lawlessness!
- (b) What is a doer of the law?
1. “For **as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law**, and **as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law** (for **not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;**” Romans 2:12-13 NKJV
- a) Clearly from what we learned already in this study, it is grace that saves us (though faith) not works:
    - 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),

- b) Then, we learned that grace also empowers us to live a godly life, after we are saved!
  - 1) “For the **grace of God that brings salvation** has appeared to all men, **teaching us [empowers us]** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and **godly in the present age**,” Titus 2:11-12 NKJV
- c) In other words, justification comes first and then we can become “doers of the law.”
- d) Doers of the law describes someone who obeys God as a result of their justification, not to cause their justification.
- e) It’s called... grace-empowered radical faith-based obedience to God. (The opposite of lawlessness!)
- f) One attempting to become justified by deeds (works) will never attain what they are looking for!
  - 1) “Therefore **by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:20 NKJV

## **B. New Identity**

### (1) Identity Politics

- (a) You are 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
  - a) The old you is gone; the new you has different capabilities.
- (b) You have access to the Divine Nature
  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
- (c) The Divine Nature is love!
  1. “He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**” I John 4:8 NKJV
    - a) The old you is gone!
    - b) The new you is capable of loving like God loves!
- (d) If you had that love in you, how would you identify yourself? As someone who can and will obey God’s commands!
  1. “If you love Me, **keep My commandments.**” John 14:15 NKJV
  2. “He who has **My commandments and keeps them**, it **is he who loves Me.** And he who loves Me will be

loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” John 14:21 NKJV

3. “Jesus answered and said to him, **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;** and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. **He who does not love Me does not keep My words;** and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.” John 14:23-24 NKJV
4. “Now **by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.** He who says, **“I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar,** and the truth is not in him.” I John 2:3-4 NKJV
  - a) If you do not keep His commandments, you are considered lawless!
  - b) His warning to you...depart from Me, you practitioner of lawlessness! I NEVER KNEW YOU!
- (e) What is your conduct?
  1. “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”** II Peter 3:11 NKJV
    - a) Are you a new creature empowered by God’s grace to obey God?
    - b) Or are you a practitioner of lawlessness?

c) What is your true identity?

### C. Two Voices Two Spirits

(1) Which spirit do you identify with most often? To which are you listening? To which are you obeying? (Excerpt from [Best Supporting Actor](#))

(a) The **Two Spirits** are contrary to one another!

1. “I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For **the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another**, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But **if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**” Galatians 5:16-18  
NKJV

- a) There are two spirits—one that you came with which animates your carnal nature, and one that you gained when you became born again!
- b) You must recognize that when you received the Holy Spirit, it DID NOT REPLACE your human spirit, instead the Holy Spirit came alongside it!
- c) You must **CHOOSE** to walk by the the Spirit of God and not by the spirit of man!
- d) When you do, you cannot be condemned by iniquity (sin, lawlessness) because you are both

empowered to obey God's law, and covered by His blood when you make an error! That is what it means by, "if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

- e) It DOES NOT mean the law does not apply to you! Remember, "Sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4)
- f) It simply means you are empowered by the Holy Spirit to NOT fall short and if you do fall short, you don't fall "under" its condemnation.

(b) No better explanation of the **Two Spirits**:

1. "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**." 1 Corinthians 2:11-14 NKJV

a) This is vitally important:

- 1) The things of a man are known by the spirit of man (the spirit he is born with).
- 2) The things of God are only known by the Spirit of God.
- 3) When we get born-again, we don't get another version of the spirit of man (the spirit of the world), we get access to the Spirit of God.
- 4) Why? So the Holy Spirit will help us compare the things of man's spirit with the things of God's Spirit. (That is what we just read about in Galatians 5:16-18.)
- 5) The man who is not born-again, cannot understand anything about the Spirit of God—it's absolute absurdity to him.
- 6) The things of God can only be discerned by the spirit of God (which you then have access to when you become born-again!)

(c) Now, the most detailed explanation of **Two Spirits** ever written!

1. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** For **the law**



of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will **also give life to**

**your mortal bodies through His Spirit** who dwells in you.” Romans 8:1-11 NKJV

- a) You must make a choice about your true identity!
  - 1) Walk in the flesh (man’s spirit) = condemnation
  - 2) Walk in the God’s Spirit = no condemnation
  - 3) The Spirit of life from Christ freed you from the death that comes when your only ability to obey God’s law is in your flesh (man’s spirit).
  - 4) Complete obedience to God’s laws is impossible if all you have access to is the spirit of a man, because you are too weak in that condition.
  - 5) The righteous requirement of the law can only be achieved when you walk in the Spirit of God.
  - 6) If your flesh is animated only by man’s spirit your mind focuses only on carnal things.
  - 7) But, if you are animated by the Holy Spirit, you will make Godly things a priority.
  - 8) Carnal mindedness is death.
  - 9) Spiritual mindedness is life.
  - 10) The spirit of man is at enmity (in hatred) with God; it will not, it **cannot**, subject itself to God’s laws, nor does it have any desire to do so.

- 11) Those who only have access to the spirit of a man can't ever be pleasing to God.
- 12) If you are truly born-again, you are not a prisoner to man's spirit; you have access to the Holy Spirit also.
- 13) But at any given moment, you have to choose one or the other.
- 14) Sin WILL kill you if you only have access to man's spirit.
- 15) But if you have access to the Holy Spirit, righteousness will give you life

(d) Here is the ever-present battle of the **Two Spirits**:

- 1. **"I find then a law**, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For **I delight in the law of God according to the inward man [the Spirit of God in me]**. But I see another law in my members, warring against **the law of my mind [the spirit of man in the]**, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Romans 7:21-23 NKJV

- (a) Both spirits coexist—you must choose at every moment that which you will let animate you!
- b) You must choose your true identity!
- c) What is your true identity?

## THE FOUNDATION OF LIFE

### 7. What is your true foundation?

#### A. Choose the foundation on which to build your life

(1) Hear and Do vs. Hear and Don't

(a) Rock or Sand?

1. ""Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who **hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the **sand**: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." And so it was, **when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching**, for He taught them **as one having authority**, and not as the scribes." Matthew 7:24-29 NKJV

- a) The Sermon on the Mount is the Deuteronomy 28 of the New Testament.
- b) Hear and do...these blessings shall come upon you!

- 1) ““Now it shall come to pass, **if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments** which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all **these blessings shall come upon you** and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:” Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJV (Then all the blessings from verses 3-14)
- c) Hear and don't...these curses will come upon you!
  - 1) ““But it shall come to pass, **if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments** and His statutes which I command you today, that all **these curses will come upon you** and overtake you:” Deuteronomy 28:15 NKJV (Then all the curses from verses 16-68)
- d) Be doers not just hearers...
  - 1) “But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves. For **if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer**, he is like a man **observing his natural face in a mirror**; for he observes himself, goes away, and

immediately **forgets** what kind of man he was.  
But **he who looks into the perfect law of liberty  
and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer  
but a doer** of the work, this one will be blessed  
**in what he does."** James 1:22-25 NKJV

(2) The Rock!

(a) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and  
does them, I will liken him to **a wise man who built his  
house on the rock:**" Matthew 7:24 NKJV

1. "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be  
unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, **all  
passed through the sea**, all were baptized into Moses  
in the cloud and in the sea [*Exodus 14*], **all ate the  
same spiritual food** [*Exodus 16*], **and all drank the  
same spiritual drink** [*Exodus 17*]. For they drank of  
that **spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock  
was Christ.**" I Corinthians 10:1-4 NKJV

- a) The Rock in the wilderness was Christ
- b) A wise man builds his house on the rock (Christ).
- c) That house will stand through every adversity.
- d) What happened when they decided to neglect the  
Rock? Their journey in the wilderness turned into  
drudgery through the sand!

### (3) The Sand!

(a) “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like **a foolish man who built his house on the sand:**” Matthew 7:26 NKJV

1. “But with most of them God was not well pleased, for **their bodies were scattered in the wilderness** [Numbers 14:22-35]. Now **these things became our examples**, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And **do not become idolaters** as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” **Nor let us commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; **nor let us tempt Christ**, as some of them also tempted, **and were destroyed by serpents** [Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14]; **nor complain**, as some of them also **complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer** [Numbers 14:36-37]. **Now all these things happened to them as examples**, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. **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**

*[Matthew 4], that you may be able to bear it."* I

Corinthians 10:5-13 NKJV

- a) Sand: bodies scattered in the wilderness...
  - 1) "The carcasses of you who have complained against Me **shall fall in this wilderness**, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above." Numbers 14:29 NKJV
- b) Sand: tempt Christ and be destroyed by serpents...
  - 1) "So the Lord **sent fiery serpents** among the people, and they bit the people; and **many of the people of Israel died.**" Numbers 21:6 NKJV
  - 2) "And as **Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness**, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up," John 3:14 NKJV
- c) Sand: complain and be destroyed by the destroyer...
  - 1) "Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation **complain against him** by bringing



a bad report of the land, **those very men** who brought the evil report about the land, **died by the plague before the Lord.**" Numbers 14:36-37  
NKJV

d) Sand: a foolish man builds his house on the sand (Christian pretense). A great fall will come when adversity arrives.

- 1) **"I never knew you;** depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" Matthew 7:23
- 2) Note to self: life can get rough at times but we are promised this... "No temptation can overtake you; there will always be a way of escape " (I Corinthians 10:13)
- 3) But only if...you build you house upon the Rock. If you build it on sand it will fall!
- 4) What is your true foundation?

## **B. Authority!**

(1) The people were astonished at Y'shua's teaching, He has true authority, not like the scribes. WHY such authority?

(a) The Son does nothing of Himself!

1. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, **I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself,** but what He sees the Father do; for whatever

He does, the Son also does in like manner.” John  
5:19 NKJV

2. “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that **I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.**”

John 8:28 NKJV

(b) The Son does not speak on His own authority but on His Father’s authority!

1. “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but **the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.**” John 12:49

NKJV

2. “Do you not believe that **I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me** does the works. **Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me,** or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” John 14:10-11

NKJV

(c) So, it should be no surprise He knew “letters.” (the scrolls of the Torah and Prophets).

1. “And the Jews marveled, saying, “**How does this Man know letters,** having never studied?” Jesus answered

them and said, “**My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.** If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, **whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.** He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. **Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law?**

Why do you seek to kill Me?”” John 7:15-19 NKJV

(d) And ultimately you are His letter; You are His doctrine!

1. “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly **you are an epistle of Christ,** ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” II Corinthians 3:2-3 NKJV

a) What would I read in your letter? What separates you from those who don’t know Christ? What is your true foundation?

b) Hear and do!

- 1) “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to **a wise man who built his house on the rock:**” Matthew 7:24

c) Hear and don't!

- 1) "I **never knew you**; depart from Me, **you who practice lawlessness!**" Matthew 7:23
- 2) "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like **a foolish man who built his house on the sand:**" Matthew 7:26

## Summary: INTRODUCTION

### 1. Truth... "Truth is reality!"

#### A. Six Degrees of Separation...

- (1) Six degrees of separation is normally used to convey the idea that all people are six or fewer social connections (friend of a friend) away from each other.
  - (a) In my distinction there are six **Temperature Readings (Truth Assessments)** that separate God's people from everyone else.
  - (b) Six Degrees of Separation
    - 1) Your intense sober self-examination...
    - 2) Your deepest inner desires...
    - 3) The gate you choose leading to either the wide road or narrow road...
    - 4) The sweetness of fruit that grows on your tree...

5) Your real identity when faced in a mirror...

6) The foundation on which you build your life...

(c) Six Degrees of Separate = Set Apart = Holy!

(2) Truly

(a) Wrap your mind around “truly” because we are about to get real! And the truth hurts sometimes!

1. ...*tell me truly what you want to do*: truthfully, honestly, frankly, candidly, openly, to someone's face...
2. ...*I'm truly grateful to them all*: sincerely, genuinely, really, indeed, from the bottom of one's heart, heartily, profoundly, extremely, exceptionally, exceedingly, immensely, uncommonly, incredibly...
3. ...*a truly dreadful song*: really, absolutely, utterly, totally, beyond, perfectly, thoroughly, completely...
4. ...*this is truly a miracle*: without (a) doubt, unquestionably, undoubtedly, certainly, surely, definitely, beyond doubt, beyond question, indubitably, undeniably...
5. ...*this does not truly reflect the child's ability*: accurately, correctly, exactly, precisely, faithfully, closely, unerringly.

(b) Greek and Hebrew

1. Amen! ([Strong's Greek 281](#): of Hebrew origin)
  - a) At the end of a sentence:
    - 1) “So let it be or so be it.” (The term is an expression of complete and total agreement.)
    - 2) Placing the word *amen* at the end of a statement is a way of accepting, agreeing, or endorsing what came before.
    - 3) It is an expression of faith.
  - b) At the start of a sentence (Y’shua is the only One in the Bible who does so):
    - 1) Y’shua introduces certain topics by using phrases such as “Verily, I say” or “Truly, truly, I say this to you.”
    - 2) It asserts that the claimant has intimate, personal, and firsthand knowledge about, and authority over the subject matter.
    - 3) When repeated, as in “truly, truly,” it is a claim that the truth that follows is an original idea.
    - 4) The speaker is not merely aware of these truths, He is the originator and author of them.

**Summary:** A SOBER SELF-EXAMINATION

**2. Have you performed a true self-examination?**

## A. Submit yourself to an intense sober self-examination!

### (1) Preparing as a judge

#### (a) The measure you use...

1. Judge others carefully because the measure you use will be used against you.
2. Don't get caught up in a brother's small indiscretions before you are aware of and correct the massive sins weighing you down.
3. It's hypocrisy to ignore your own major faults while you nit pick at the small faults of others.

### (2) Handle your own issues first; then you can get involved as an arbiter.

#### (a) Be in complete control of your own mind!

1. Take a look at yourself and get your own stuff handled before you insert yourself as a judge of others.
2. And as we learned in Matthew 5, it's not just our actions that must be brought into obedience to Christ, but our minds! *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, but I say to you..."*

#### (b) Quintessential Hypocrisy

1. Do you practice the things you are condemning in others? If you do...

2. You will experience God's wrath in the day of the righteous judgment.
3. He will render to each one according to his deeds.  
(**Note:** *not because deeds save someone, but because deeds are evidence of salvation!*)
4. **Eternal life:** to those who persevere in doing good, as they seek to glorify and honor God because of their immortality!
5. **Tribulation and anguish:** to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth!

**B. One more warning:**

- (1) Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine...
  - (a) Y'shua explained it elsewhere like this...
    1. Even if you are perfectly prepared to judge others, use discretion because not everyone is interested in kingdom values
    2. Don't waste your time on those who don't care.
    3. **Clarification:** Sometimes the word is not received because the recipient is not ready, and sometimes it's not received because the messenger is not ready!  
(See [Apostolic Footprints](#))

**C. Self-Examination**



(1) Examine Yourself!

(a) Show me your faith...

1. Are you obeying God or just talking about obeying God?

(2) Nothing is hidden from God

(a) You have searched me... Search me, O God!

(b) For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

(c) All things are naked and exposed...

(3) Self-examination vs. Self-condemnation

(a) An examination is mandatory!

1. Psalms 139:1-24

a) God has searched me and knows me.

b) There is nowhere I can go to hide from God's Spirit or flee from God's presence!

c) God formed my inward parts (so He knows everything about me!).

d) My soul knows very well that my frame is not hidden from God.

e) Search me, O God, and know my heart!

2. I Corinthians 11:27-32

a) Let a man examine himself...

- b) If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged (presumably because with the aide of the Holy Spirit we would alter our behavior).

### 3. Hebrews 4:12-13

- a) The word of God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- b) There is no creature hidden from His sight!

### (b) Condemnation is optional!

#### 1. Romans 8:1

- a) You are certainly being examined by God, and you are clearly instructed to be proactive and to examine yourself. And there is no doubt you SHOULD BE convicted by your sins.
- b) But, that is different from condemnation, which is reserved for those who CHOOSE to walk by the flesh and to follow the dictates of their own hearts.
- c) There is an important teaching about to which spirit you identify with most often, and to which you are listening and obeying (an excerpt from [Best Supporting Actor](#)). I chose to repeat it in this sermon in the section about Identity (Section 6).

- d) It could have easily been included here or in Section 4 about the Gate you choose to walk through and the path you choose to walk on.
- e) Have you performed a true self-examination?

## **Summary: DEEP INNER DESIRES**

### **3. What are your true inner desires?**

#### **A. Expose your deepest inner desires...**

##### **(1) Desires**

##### **(a) Ask—Seek—Knock**

1. Ask, seek, and knock; and you will receive, find, and have open doors.
2. If an earthly father would respond to such petitions, how much more certain can you be about your Heavenly Father's response to your supplication!
3. The Law and the Prophets instruct us to always consider others first when you make requests.

##### **(b) Whoever desires...**

1. Deny yourself...
2. Take up your cross daily...
3. Give up your life to follow Him...

##### **(2) The Heart**

- ##### **(a) A man's heart reveals a man's deep inner desires**

1. See [Tomorrow Never Comes](#)

## **B. Ask—Seek—Knock Stipulations**

### (1) Proper Asking

#### (a) With supplication and thanks...

1. Don't have anxiety
2. Be earnest and humble
3. Be thankful

#### (b) Be Fervent and righteous...

1. Be passionate and intense
2. Live a virtuous, upright and principled life (in God's eyes).

#### (c) Have faith and perseverance...

1. The woman with the issue of blood for 12 years pressed through the tight crowd just to touch the fringe of Y'shua's garment because she had faith it would heal her. (See: [The Reason](#))
2. The woman accused of adultery was released as her sins were put behind her. What then?
3. Go and sin no more!
4. Reject the darkness and follow the Light of the world.

#### (d) Be unafraid and confident...

1. Jairus was the leader of the synagogue in Capernaum.

2. His daughter was near death when he sought Y'shua to heal her.
3. By the time he arrived home she had already died.
4. He was encouraged by Christ to reject fear, and to instead believe.

(e) Ask in His Name...

(f) Ask in His will...

(g) Ask without doubts...

(h) Ask with right motives...

1. If you are seeking the Lord and it is all about satisfying your own carnal desires, then you are asking amiss.
2. *"If you cannot be fulfilled WITHOUT the things you are seeking, then you will never be truly satisfying WITH them!"*

(i) Ask with others in mind...

1. Always consider others first.
2. The Law and the Prophets instruct us to love others as we love ourselves.
3. Paul affirms we should give preference to others by always considering their interests ahead of your own.
4. What are your true desires?

## Summary: THE WIDE AND NARROW GATE

### 4. What is your true gate?

#### A. Pick the gate that leads to either the wide or narrow road!

##### (1) Gates and Roads

##### (a) Choose the difficult path!

1. We are called to take the narrow path.
2. The wide road (occupied by the many who are evil) leads to destruction.
3. The narrow road (occupied by the few who are righteous) leads to life.

##### (2) Do not go the way of the many who do evil!

##### (a) Do not incline yourself to the majority!

1. The majority tends to pervert what is right.

##### (b) Do not incline yourself to anything evil!

1. Keep your heart far from men of sin
2. What they offer will seem very delicious
3. But, if you look closely you will notice their pleasures are contrary to the things of God.

##### (c) Daniel stayed on the narrow path...

1. Daniel opted to obey the commands of his God instead of eating the king's delicacies (unclean foods).

#### B. Choosing the Narrow Road

(1) What does it look like when you pass through the narrow gate?

(a) First understand that God's grace does two things...

1. NUMBER ONE: Grace saves us....\
2. God gifts us with grace which empowers us with the faith to believe unto salvation.
3. Everyone whoever comes to faith does so the same way—through His righteousness, not our own!
4. NUMBER TWO: Grace instructs us (empowers us) to live a certain way!
5. Men can access that grace so they can reject ungodliness and worldly lusts.
6. Grace instructs us (empowers us)...To live **soberly** (self-restrained), **righteously** (pleasing to Yahweh), and **godly** lives (imitating Yahweh) in the present age (right now!).

(2) Grace for a secure eternity PLUS a better now!

(a) Exercise vs. Exercise....

1. Physical exercise is beneficial in the present age (right now!)
2. Exercise in godliness has both temporal (in the present age right now!) benefits, and for an eternity!

(b) Grace vs. Grace

1. Yes... “by grace you have been saved through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8)
2. But also... we have access to that grace to apply to the life we are living right now!
3. That is how you stay on the narrow road!
4. What is your true gate?

### **Summary: TASTE THE FRUIT**

#### **5. What is your true fruit?**

##### **A. Let others taste the fruit that grows on your tree!**

- (1) How can you truly know someone?
  - (a) Examine the fruits of their life!
    1. Beware of false prophets, who are wolves, but look like sheep.
    2. Skip what they look like and examine their fruits.
    3. Fruits don’t lie—bad trees bear bad fruit, and good trees bear good fruit.
    4. Bad trees must be cut down and burned.
- (2) What does rotten fruit look like?
  - (a) Presumptuous words that don’t come to pass...
    1. A man who speaks from his own authority will predict things that won’t happen.
    2. The fruit dies on the vine!



(b) Visions of their own heart...

1. A man who speaks from his own vision encourages people to follow their own hearts, even when it contradicts God's word!

(c) Exclusive prophecies...

1. A man with rotten fruit enjoys his own private interpretation of prophecy.

## **B. Identifying Edible Fruit**

(1) What does good (sweet) fruit look like?

(a) Love!

1. The single greatest sign of healthy fruit is the love we show for others.

(b) Repentance!

1. Fruit: true contrition and sorrow for anything that displeases God!

(c) The Fruit of the Spirit

1. The fruit of the Spirit has nine qualities manifesting simultaneously.
2. Each characteristic is tangible in those who display this fruit.
3. It can be tasted, touched, seen, heard and felt.

4. There is no law of God that is not also being simultaneously fulfilled while displaying the fruit of the Spirit.
5. In other words, you cannot disobey God and bear the fruit of the Spirit at the same time.
6. That is why those growing the fruit of the Spirit on their tree have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires!
7. What is your true fruit?

### **Summary: YOUR REAL IDENTITY**

#### **6. What is your true identity?**

##### **A. Look in the mirror and face your real identity!**

(1) Lawlessness: It's more serious than you realize!

(a) Does He know you?

1. True believers do the will of the Father.
2. Imposters practice lip service.
3. Those who fake it can be identified as practitioners of lawlessness!
4. **A must listen:** [On Collision Course!](#) (This teaching explains how the law of God applies to Christians and how law and grace operate together.)

(2) Y'shua says He has never had any authentic intimacy with practitioners of lawlessness!

(a) What is lawlessness?

1. Sin is Lawlessness...
2. We are redeemed from a lawless life.
3. He came to take away our sins!
4. He came to take away our lawlessness!

(b) What is a doer of the law?

1. Clearly from what we learned already in this study, it is grace that saves us (though faith) not works:
2. Then, we learned that grace also empowers us to live a godly life, after we are saved!
3. In other words, justification comes first and then we can become "doers of the law."
4. Doers of the law describes someone who obeys God as a result of their justification, not to cause their justification.
5. It's called... grace-empowered radical faith-based obedience to God. (The opposite of lawlessness!)
6. One attempting to become justified by deeds (works) will never attain what they are looking for!

## **B. New Identity**

(1) Identity Politics

- (a) You are a new creation!
  - 1. The old you is gone; the new you has different capabilities.
- (b) You have access to the Divine Nature
- (c) The Divine Nature is love!
  - 1. The old you is gone!
  - 2. The new you is capable of loving like God loves!
- (d) If you had that love in you, how would you identify yourself? As someone who can and will obey God's commands!
  - 1. If you do not keep His commandments, you are considered lawless!
  - 2. His warning to you...depart from Me, you practitioner of lawlessness! I NEVER KNEW YOU!
- (e) What is your conduct?
  - 1. Are you a new creature empowered by God's grace to obey God?
  - 2. Or are you a practitioner of lawlessness?
  - 3. What is your true identity?

### **C. Two Voices Two Spirits**

- (1) Which spirit do you identify with most often? To which are you listening? To which are you obeying? (Excerpt from [Best Supporting Actor](#))

(a) The **Two Spirits** are contrary to one another!

1. “There are two spirits—one that you came with which animates your carnal nature, and one that you gained when you became born again!
2. You must recognize that when you received the Holy Spirit, it DID NOT REPLACE your human spirit, instead the Holy Spirit came alongside it!
3. You must **CHOOSE** to walk by the the Spirit of God and not by the spirit of man!
4. When you do, you cannot be condemned by iniquity (sin, lawlessness) because you are both empowered to obey God’s law, and covered by His blood when you make an error! That is what it means by, “if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”
5. It DOES NOT mean the law does not apply to you! Remember, “Sin is lawlessness.” (1 John 3:4)
6. It simply means you are empowered by the Holy Spirit to NOT fall short and if you do fall short, you don’t fall “under” its condemnation.

(b) No better explanation of the **Two Spirits**:

1. This is vitally important:
  - 1) The things of a man are known by the spirit of man (the spirit he is born with).

- 2) The things of God are only known by the Spirit of God.
  - 3) When we get born-again, we don't get another version of the spirit of man (the spirit of the world), we get access to the Spirit of God.
  - 4) Why? So the Holy Spirit will help us compare the things of man's spirit with the things of God's Spirit. (That is what we just read about in Galatians 5:16-18.)
  - 5) The man who is not born-again, cannot understand anything about the Spirit of God—it's absolute absurdity to him.
  - 6) The things of God can only be discerned by the spirit of God (which you then have access to when you become born-again!)
- (c) Now, the most detailed explanation of **Two Spirits** ever written!
1. You must make a choice about your true identity!
    - 1) Walk in the flesh (man's spirit) = condemnation
    - 2) Walk in the God's Spirit = no condemnation
    - 3) The Spirit of life from Christ freed you from the death that comes when your only ability to obey God's law is in your flesh (man's spirit).

- 4) Complete obedience to God's laws is impossible if all you have access to is the spirit of a man, because you are too weak in that condition.
- 5) The righteous requirement of the law can only be achieved when you walk in the Spirit of God.
- 6) If your flesh is animated only by man's spirit your mind focuses only on carnal things.
- 7) But, if you are animated by the Holy Spirit, you will make Godly things a priority.
- 8) Carnal mindedness is death.
- 9) Spiritual mindedness is life.
- 10) The spirit of man is at enmity (in hatred) with God; it will not, it **cannot**, subject itself to God's laws, nor does it have any desire to do so.
- 11) Those who only have access to the spirit of a man can't ever be pleasing to God.
- 12) If you are truly born-again, you are not a prisoner to man's spirit; you have access to the Holy Spirit also.
- 13) But at any given moment, you have to choose one or the other.
- 14) Sin WILL kill you if you only have access to man's spirit.

15) But if you have access to the Holy Spirit,  
righteousness will give you life

(d) Here is the ever-present battle of the **Two Spirits**:

1. Both spirits coexist—you must choose at every moment that which you will let animate you!
2. You must choose your true identity!
3. What is your true identity?

## **Summary: THE FOUNDATION OF LIFE**

### **7. What is your true foundation?**

#### **A. Choose the foundation on which to build your life**

(1) Hear and Do vs. Hear and Don't

(a) Rock or Sand?

1. The Sermon on the Mount is the Deuteronomy 28 of the New Testament.
2. Hear and do...these blessings shall come upon you!
3. Hear and don't...these curses will come upon you!
4. Be doers not just hearers...

(2) The Rock!

(a) “...**a wise man who built his house on the rock:**”

1. The Rock in the wilderness was Christ
2. A wise man builds his house on the rock (Christ).
3. That house will stand through every adversity.



4. What happened when they decided to neglect the Rock? Their journey in the wilderness turned into drudgery through the sand!

(3) The Sand!

(a) “...**a foolish man who built his house on the sand:**”

1. Sand: bodies scattered in the wilderness...
2. Sand: tempt Christ and be destroyed by serpents...
3. Sand: complain and be destroyed by the destroyer
4. Sand: a foolish man builds his house on the sand (Christian pretense). A great fall will come when adversity arrives.
5. Note to self: life can get rough at times but we are promised this... “No temptation can overtake you; there will always be a way of escape ” (I Corinthians 10:13)
6. But only if...you build you house upon the Rock. If you build it on sand it will fall!
7. What is your true foundation?

**B. Authority!**

- (1) The people were astonished at Y’shua’s teaching, He has true authority, not like the scribes. WHY such authority?
  - (a) The Son does nothing of Himself!

1. The Son does not speak on His own authority but on His Father's authority!
2. So, it should be no surprise He knew "letters." (the scrolls of the Torah and Prophets).
3. And ultimately you are His letter; You are His doctrine!
4. What would I read in your letter? What separates you from those who don't know Christ? What is your true foundation?
  - a) Hear and do!
  - b) Hear and don't!

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### **1. Have you performed a true self-examination?**

- A. What is the admonition about judging in Matthew 7:1-6 and Romans 2:1-11?
- B. When are we ready to judge according to II Corinthians 10:5-6?
- C. Describe the parameters of a good self-examination as per James 1:22-25; Psalms 139:1-24; I Corinthians 11:27-32.
- D. Describe why an examination is inevitable. (See Psalms 139:1-24; Hebrews 4:12-13)

- E. Clarify the difference between an examination and condemnation. (Use Romans 8)

## **2. What are your true inner desires?**

- A. Describe what it means to request things from God according to Matthew 7:7-12.
- B. How can we discern a man's true desires? (See: Proverbs 27:19; Luke 6:45; Matthew 6:21)
- C. Use the following scriptures to craft a narrative about proper asking. (Philippians 4:6; James 5:16; Luke 8:48-50; John 8:10-12; 14:12-14; 1 John 5:14-15; James 1:6; 4:3; Leviticus 19:17-18; Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Corinthians 10:24)

## **3. What is your true gate?**

- A. What is the admonition about choosing a path in Matthew 7:13-14?
- B. How does Exodus 23:2 and Psalms 141:4 depict the wide road?
- C. How does Daniel 1:8 depict the narrow road?
- D. We have God's grace to help us choose the narrow road. Describe the two functions of grace using Titus 2:11-12; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Peter 1:2-4; 1 Timothy 4:8; Romans 5:1-2)

## **4. What is your true fruit?**

- A. How can you truly know someone according to Matthew 7:15-20?

- B. What does rotten fruit look like ? (See: Deuteronomy 18:20-22; Jeremiah 23:16-17)
- C. What does good (sweet) fruit look like? (See: John 13:35; Luke 3:8; Galatians 5:22-25)

**5. What is your true identity?**

- A. What seems to be the identifying factor of who Christ knows and does not know in Matthew 7:21-23?
- B. What is lawlessness according to I John 3:4-6?
- C. Considering all you have learned about grace thus far in this study, what then is a “doer of the law” according to Romans 2:12-13?
- D. Relate II Corinthians 5:17 to II Peter 1:4 and I John 4:8. How does this then relate to John 14:15; 14:21-24; and I John 2:3-4?

**6. What is your true foundation?**

- A. What choices do you have upon which to build your life of faith according to Matthew 7:24-29?
- B. How does Matthew 7:24-29 relate to Deuteronomy 28 and James 1:22-25?
- C. Relate Matthew 7:24 to I Corinthians 10:1-4.
- D. Relate Matthew 7:26 to I Corinthians 10:5-13.

- E. The people were astonished at Y'shua's teaching, He had true authority. WHY did He have such authority? (See: John 5:19; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10-11)
- F. Relate Y'shua knowing letters in John 7:15-19 to Y'shua knowing you II Corinthians 3:2-3.