

Devoted Disciple

Series 1: First Faith
Blessed Life

10 Daily Scripture Passages
Genesis 1-22
Personal Time,
Paired Discussion,
Participating in Fellowship

-Series 1. First Faith

Booklet 1. Blessed Life

Genesis 1-22

First Faith Overview:

God gives us His Words, beginning in the book of Genesis, as *revelation*. He reveals to us the spiritual realities of who He is and the truth of who we are and how we must know him.

Such revelation is sufficient, for He does not depend on human wisdom to present these deep and counterintuitive truths.

And, it is progressive, laying from the very beginning of Genesis the steps we must take to know him. First by faith and leading up to a life of worship and sacrificial obedience. Read Genesis with new eyes of faith!

Humbled Prayer: Devote yourself to the Lord

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...



- Do I want to humble myself under the Lord God by faith?
- Will I live as my own Lord, relying on my own understanding?

Prayer of Devotion: Lord God, I devote myself to you today:

In soul—humbling myself under your Lordship; In mind—to know you and your Word by *faith*; In heart—to love Jesus and the Father to do your will; and in soul—to give my life to you as a living sacrifice! Please teach me now by your Holy Spirit, that I might be live out your holy Word! In Jesus name, Amen

□1. Worship God: Honoring God as Most High

Read Genesis 1

Who is God, and why did he make me?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **Genesis 1:1-2**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Who is God, and what does this creation story tell you about His person and how we are meant to relate to Him as our God?

QA: Why did God create man? What appears to be God's purpose for man and how we must relate to God?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does God reveal Himself from the very *beginning*? (Gen. 1:1-7)

1.Highest God: Honoring God as Head. God reveals Himself as the *creator* of all things that are *seen* (earth) and *spiritual and unseen* (heavens) (1:1, Col. 1:16). As the *creator* and *source* of all things, God takes the highest place of power and worth, for He is the *Head* of all creation from the very *beginning*. If God takes the highest place as the *Head*, we and all things owe God the highest honor and glory. Even God *as Son* honors and obeys (1:7) God's command as the Head of all (1:6, Ps. 2:7-8).

Q2. How was humanity meant to respond to God? (Gen. 1:26-29; Is. 9:6)

2.Reflecting God: Worship Glorifies God. God gives humanity, *male and female* (1:27), the honor of carrying God's *image* and *likeness*. When God shares "our image... likeness," this shared image is a family resemblance of God's *holy* and *righteous* life (1:26), a holy life revealed in God as "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:6). We were meant to *reflect* God's holy *image* as partakers of God's family *blessing* and someday members of his family (Ps. 82:6).

Q3. What does the creation reveal about God the Creator? (1:30-31)

3.Blessed by Good God: Alive in God's Goodness. When God makes all things *very good* (1:31), all things have a God-given purpose—all things are *good* for *life*. God's will is that we experience life under His *blessing* (1:28) so that we are *fruitful* and *multiply*. As we see in the lives of Adam and Eve, this *good life* is to be alive both in *earthly flesh* (Gen. 2:7) and *heavenly spirit* to rest in His blessed Lordship.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

Who is God, and why did he make me?

1. Worship God: Honoring God as Most High. Without God, the world is *empty* and *dark* (Gen. 1:2). But, God spoke and said, *Let there be light, and there was light* (1:3). God does not want you to live alone in *empty darkness* but to be part of His *creative work* in the *light*!

For, when God created this world, He made it to be *good* (4) for you! To be good for life—with a sheltering sky (6), seas and land (10), and a world abounding with plants and animals! (11, 20).

Why does God, the almighty *Creator* of all things in heaven and on earth (1:1) create such a world of goodness for us? Who is he and what does he want?

Although God alone is the world's Creator, God himself is not alone but creates in perfect oneness. God is *elohim*, plural, but creates as one, *bara*, singular (1:1); God commands (1:6) and God dutifully obeys His command (1:7); and, God enjoys a unity of life and agrees to share this life with you, for: *God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"* (1:26).

Will you share in God's life and likeness, for which he created you?

Notes¹: Blessed in Family: Revealing God. When God says, "let **us** make man in **our** image, in **our** likeness" (1:26), He speaks as a family oneness as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19). So, this *likeness* He passes to humanity is His righteous and holy character, which he passes on to us as a *family resemblance*. Created to belong to His family, we were also meant for His *blessings* that promises you a fruitful future!

¹ **Elohim:** Family Oneness of God. God reveals himself as a *plurality* of persons (*elohim*, *plural*) but a *oneness* of agency (*bara- create- is singular*). So, God is revealed as a *plural unity*, different persons acting and existing as a perfect oneness. God as *Everlasting Father* commands (Gen. 1:6), and God as His Heir, *the Prince of Peace*, obeys His command to *make* (1:7; Is. 9:22). In this way, the *oneness* of God is not a lonely and selfish isolation, for the Hebrew word for God is not *yachid*, an individual, but *echad* (Dt. 6:4), a loving family *oneness* seen in the family unity of marriage when man and woman become *one flesh* (Heb. *basar echad*).

☐2. Rest in Lord: Receiving Grace and Peace.

Read Genesis 2.

Who is God as our Lord, and why should we obey Him?

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat[d] of it you shall surely die." **Genesis 2:15-17**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. What does God do here as the Lord of man and woman? How does He relate to the man and woman as their Lord?

QA: How are the man and woman meant to live with God as their Lord? How does the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil represent this choice to live with God as their Lord?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Lord God make us for life? (2:2-9)

1.Truly Alive in the Lord: Blessed Life. After God had made the *heavens and the earth* in six days (Gen. 2:1), having filled the land with multiplying humanity (Gen. 1:27-28), God made this world a *home* for us, a place for His chosen line of Adam and Eve, whose generations were meant to be *the sons of God* (Gen. 6:4), part of His house and under His family blessing and *Lordship* (2:3). God appointed a *holy* time (2:3) for us to *rest* in his blessing. We were fully alive in him, not just in earthly flesh but by His very heavenly *breath* making our souls come alive (2:7).

Q2. How should we live with the Lord God? (2:15-17)

2.Obeying Lord: Commands for Life. Rather than a distant Creator, God reveals himself to us as our family *Lord* (2:15). He reveals himself as the eternally existing one, "*I am*," (2:16) (Heb. *Yahweh*), so that we might know him for who he is. This *Yahweh* God is *Lord*, for He has the power to command all things, even *life* and *death* (2:16-17). When we *rest* in His Lordship, reserving for him the *right* to command our *knowledge of good and evil*, then we live. But, to reject God to determine for ourselves *good* and *evil* is the sin of unbelief, for we cease trusting in God. This is death.

Q3. How does the Lord God care for our needs? (2:18-25)

3.Provision of Lord: Family reflects Unity of Lord. When we rest in the Lord, remaining in His home of *peace* and *grace*, He provides for us all that we need. So, the Lord made the man and woman *one flesh* (2:24) so that they may not live *alone* (2:18).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

Who is God as our Lord, and why should we obey him?

2. Rest in Lord: Receiving Grace and Peace. In His creation, God *rests* and *enjoys* a precious and blessed time with His people. Of all the families of the earth, we are told that the Lord God chose our line of Adam and Eve to be the *family generations* to inherit the *heavens* and the *earth* as the people resting in His *family Lordship* (2:3-4).

As your family *Lord*, God created us to live with him in body--from the dust of this earth, *and* spirit-- *from the heavenly life* He directly breathed into our first parent, Adam (2:7). So, *your soul* will be fully alive only in Him, as the *soul-nourishing* life of His Lordship infuses you!

God's Lordship made this world our *perfect home*, for He blessed us and provided us every good and earthly thing (9).

This *blessed life* is yours if you *rest by faith under the Lordship of God*. The Lord God *commanded* our first parents to *live freely* by faith, receiving and trusting His Word to know *good* and *evil*. But, choosing to live as our own lords, trusting our own understanding, leads to spiritual death (2:17).

Notes²: Living Soul: Flesh Alive by Living Spirit. God made you to be fully alive only under His Lordship. Our bodies are made of this earthly *dust* (2:7), but our *souls* live only from the *breath of God*, his personal life and spirit given intimately to our first parents. Because we are fallen people, we know only *earthly flesh* and our souls hunger for God's spiritual life. Only through the *new birth* available through Messiah's *redemption* will our souls live again! (Jn. 1:12-13).

² **Resting in Faith:** When the Lord God *rests* from all His work on the *seventh day* (Gen. 2:2), He recognizes the *completeness* of all He has done. In this way, he invites you to *rest by faith* in His finished work. By faith, *resting in the Lord* means you recognize your fleshly inadequacy *and* entrust yourself fully in what the Lord can and has done. When you *rest* in the Lord by faith, you share in his *holy* time, a time meant for fellowship with him in His righteous life. You are covered by His *blessing*, a family promise to provide for all your needs by His abundant and good grace. And, you are fully free and *alive* in Him.

□3. Hope in Chosen Son: Breaking Serpent's Power.

Read Genesis 3, 4:7

How did Serpent lure our first parents from God, and how will he be defeated?

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **Genesis 3:4-5**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. Even before Eve comes up with reasons to Sin against God, how does she fall for the Serpent's trap of Godless-thinking—that is, unbelief? How does the Serpent change how Eve relates to the Lord God?

QA. How do we fall for the Serpent's trap of Godless-thinking and unbelief too, thinking that we too can "be like God" to be our own Self-Lords?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Serpent separate the woman from God? (3:1-5)

1. Doubting Word: Unbelief replaces God with Self. We are safe under the Lordship of God, submitting to the Word of command. So, the Serpent attacks our obedience to God's Word by first minimizing the authority of God, calling him *God* rather than the *Lord* of authority (3:1). Then, the Serpent obscures what the Lord actually said, making a false claim that God commanded that they "not eat of any tree" (2). Finally, the enemy shamelessly denies the truth of God's Word outright by saying, "You will not surely die" (4) to mislead the woman.

Q2. Why did the woman choose to disobey God and sin? (3:6-7)

2. Godless World: Flesh wants Life without God. The Serpent tricked the woman to take a position of unbelief, to think and reason purely *in the flesh*, as if the Lord God was not relevant. When the woman *reasoned in the flesh*, that is, thinking uncovered of the Lord's commanding authority, she came up with many reasons to sin (3:6-7). Life without the Lord to simply live a fleshly life in this world is appealing, because there is *worldly food to satisfy* (6), *worldly delights to enjoy*, and *worldly wisdom to get by* without God. In this way, your flesh will unfailingly deceive you that there are good reasons to sin. But, all reasons to sin lead to spiritual death.

Q3. What was the result of the man and woman disobeying God?
(3:10-15)

3. Naked Flesh: Spiritual Death rules until Son defeats Serpent. To eat of the forbidden tree and sin was to throw of God's Lordship for a fleshly Self-Rule. Sinning, the first man and woman died spiritually, having separated from the Lord's spiritual life. So, they and we live as *naked flesh* (3:10), uncovered of spiritual life. No longer covered by the Lord's life, we are under the *power of sin and death*, under the Serpent's dark rule.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How did Serpent lure first parents from God, and how will he be defeated?

1.3. Hope in Chosen Seed: Honoring God as Most High. Under His Lordship, God created our family line to be His chosen *heirs*, so that our family generations would inherit in Him *the heavens* and the *earth* (2:4).

But, we lost everything when our first parents aspired to *be like God* as our own Self-Lords in this world to rely on our own understanding rather than God's Word to know *good* and *evil* (3:5). So, our first parents sinned, and we *died* spiritually as the Lord God had warned. We live now in *dead flesh* and under the Serpent's rule of death and darkness (Is. 9:2).

So, you and I inherit the *dead flesh* of our first parents (Eph. 2:1-2), and we are powerless and have no hope to regain our spiritual life. But, do not fear! The Lord God judged our enemy, the Serpent, and promised that a Chosen Son, a *Seed* of the woman (3:15), would one day crush his head! This Chosen Seed is God's promised Messiah, who is the greatest of humanity, our Heir, the Son of Man!

Notes³: Naked Flesh: Dead in Sin. Just as we were never meant to live apart from the Lord as our own Self-Lords, our *flesh*—that is, bodily life on earth—was never meant to live uncovered of God's life and Spirit. Due to humanity's sin, we live in this world in the *flesh*, the part of us that denies God and His Lordship, seeking to control life as life's highest priority, as its own *god*, and to do whatever it wants, lawlessly, as its own *Self-Lord* (Rom. 8:5-8; Gal. 5:16-23).

³ **Chosen Son (Seed):** Starting with this first promise of the *Seed* (Heb. *zera*) of the Woman, God will through the course of the Hebrew Scriptures progressively clarify the Chosen Son of Adam's line who will *break* the Serpent's dark rule (Gen. 3:15), restore God's *blessing* to all the nations of earth (Gen. 22:18), and *redeem* the family by ransoming sins and rebuilding God's holy household (2 Samuel 7:12-16). This promised *Seed*, this *Chosen Son*, was revealed by His death and resurrection as Jesus Christ, the Son of David and the Son of God.

☐4. Pleasing Sacrifice: Offering our Lives to God.

Read Genesis 4

How can our lives either please or displease God?

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, **Genesis 4:3-4**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. How did Abel reveal his faith in the Lord God by the offering he presented to him?

QA. What does Cain's failure teach us about sin and how we must deal with it?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. Why did God accept Abel's sacrifice and not Cain's? (4:1-5)

1. Best Sacrifice: Reflects our Honoring View of God. We were made in God's *image* to worship God, showcasing His glory as the Most High Creator. So, our *sacrifices*—the gifts we offer to the Lord—reveal either our heart's honor or diminishing of God. Abel clearly honored the Lord as God by his sacrifices. Giving God the *firstborn* of His flock (4:4) showed that He esteemed God as most worthy. And, offering the best, *fat portions* to God showed his view of God's glorious value. But, Cain merely offered some of his *fruit* (3).

Q2. What is the result of Cain's Sinful murder? (4:7-10).

2. Cursed Sin: Losing God's Blessed Care. The Lord had warned Cain that *sin* was seeking to *overtake* him (4:7). So, when Cain listened to his fleshly passions and sinned, murdering his brother, he incurred *blood guilt* (10). God entrusted his *holy image* (Gen. 1:26) to each person, so choosing to sin *despoils* the *infinite glory* of God's name. Burdening one's life with an *infinite debt of sin* (Rm. 6:23) for which no human life can pay (Ps. 49:7-9).

Q3. How is Cain and his life affected by his sin? (4:11-17)

3. Destructive Sin: Dead to God, His provision and relationships. Cain realized that his sin led to inevitable consequences. He lost his livelihood, for he was *cursed from the ground* (4:11). Without God's blessing, his physical toil would be fruitless (12). And, he lost his place in the community, becoming a *wandering fugitive*.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How did Serpent lure first parents from God, and how will he be defeated?

4. Pleasing Sacrifice: Offering our Lives to God. As our creator, God stands at the *Head* of all things, worthy of all glory as the Most High. As Lord, he reveals himself to us and offers a fruitful life of blessing and peace. But, you have a choice. Will you respond to the Lord God in a way that suits His great worth, or will you fall to the Serpent's enticement to lift up your Self as your life's focus and basis for understanding *good* and *evil*?

Righteous Abel chose to live sacrificially as pleasing to God, our *family's* proper response to the Lord who calls us to walk by faith in His blessing. And, the Lord *regarded* (4:4) Abel's sacrifice, for Abel's sacrifice reflected his very life, offered to please the Lord as befits the *Most High God* as the Lord of all authority.

In your heart, you too can *worship* the Lord God in *spirit and truth* (Jn. 4:24) so that your *valuable sacrifice* reveals both your humility and His worth. Give God your life and its best, that He may regard you!

Notes⁴: Sacrificial Relationship: First, Fat, Faith (Self) (Heb. 11:4).

Given the very *image* of the holy God (Gen. 1:26), you and I were made to worship, to give ourselves to God in a way that reflects His righteous spiritual life (Rom. 12:1-2). We learn from Abel how we can live in *sacrificial* relationship with the Lord God. Like Abel's offering of the *firstborn* of the flock (Gen. 4:4), we give God what is *best* in our lives as our *first priority*. The *fat portions* of Abel's sacrifice teach us to give God the *choice* and *valuable* things of life to please him, such as our valuable possessions, livelihood, or even relationships. Finally, giving the Lord God our *faith* entrusts to him our very lives. By faith, Abel gave himself and lost his life, yet his sacrifice still *proclaims* the glory of God (Heb. 11:4).

⁴ **Dangerous Sin (4:6):** By choosing the Self-serving path of *not doing well* (Gen. 4:7), Cain was dangerously inviting *sin* to lurk at the *door* of his life. The Lord God warned him that *sin* "crouched" like a predator *desiring* to consume him (7). For, when a person sins, they give their *life* over to a *malevolent power*. Sin is an infectious disease, desiring to spread its damage in you. It is *dark power*, seeking to take over your life. So, those who sin become *enslaved* to Sin, giving the Serpent a power over your life (Jn. 8:34).

□5. Righteous before God: Doing all Commanded.

Read Genesis 6

How can I find favor with God in a fleshly generation?

9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. **Genesis 6:9-10.**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. How did our father Noah live so that the Lord God considered him to be “righteous in his generation”?

QA. How is the fleshly life which humanity inherited after Adam and Eve’s sin unable to please God, provoking him to wrath?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does God view fleshly humanity? (6:1-7)

1. Flesh Unready for Spirit: Corrupted and Temporary. The Lord God had made Adam and our family to be alive to him spiritually, bearing His righteous image. However, our first parents *sinned* (Gen. 3:6) and died spiritually, so that all that remained was naked *flesh*, uncovered of life. This *dying flesh* was not a suitable vessel for the Lord's *holy Spirit* (6:3). In their *dead flesh*, earth's people turned from God to Self-understanding and wickedness, with their *hearts* set on *evil* (5). But, only Noah lived not by *fleshly understanding* but *faith in the Lord*, so he alone found *favor* in the *eyes of the Lord* (8).

Q2. How did Noah differ from rest of humanity? (6:8-13)

2. Righteous Noah Favored: Preserved from Judgment. In his entire generation, which lived by the *flesh* and was corrupted by its human understanding to focus on what was *evil* in the Lord's eyes (6:5,11-12), Noah alone *walked with God* (9) by *faith*, for by this time the Lord's presence had withdrawn from the earth (4:26). Trusting God as his *Lord*, Noah pleased the Lord by doing what was *righteous* (9) to live *blamelessly* before God and man. Likewise, you can *walk with the Lord* by faith, pleasing God to do what is right.

Q3. How did the Lord treat Noah and His family? (6:18-22).

3. Safe Covenant: Protected from Judgment. The Lord God favored Noah and also his *family* to bless them through their *generations* (6:9) because Noah walked by faith, doing *all God commanded him* (22). This *favor* took the form of a *covenant*, and agreement in which the Lord promised to maintain His favor and steadfast love to Noah and all those who belonged to him (18). And, God's *favor* protected Noah and His family from judgment.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How can I find favor with God in a fleshly generation?

5. Righteous before God: Doing All Commanded. In a corrupted world, we are told that *Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord* as a *righteous* man (Gen. 6:8-9). Noah presented himself to the Lord to do what was right, even though the whole world lived in wickedness. If you want God to watch your life with favor, then live your life before the Lord in righteousness!

In *righteousness*, Noah *walked with God by faith* (9). Noah walked by *faith*, because he *did all that God commanded him* (22). Such full obedience is only possible by *faith*. For, *faith* begins when we *surrender* our hearts to God as our *Lord*, knowing His *good* and turning from what He considers *evil* (Gen. 2:17). But, the unbelieving rely on their own *fleshly* understanding, which is humanly reasonable but *wicked* and *evil* (6:5) in the sight of the Lord.

Like Noah, surrendering to the Lord by faith strengthens you to live a righteous and blameless life in the midst of wickedness, obeying all that the Lord commands you! (6:22).

Notes⁵: Naked Flesh: Corrupted and Condemned. We are all born as *naked flesh*, uncovered of the *spiritual life* for which God had made us. But, our natural human inclinations are opposed to the faith which the Lord requires of his *righteous* ones. To surrender and trust in God alone as our Lord requires we abandon our natural flesh—listening to God’s Word first and not our *own understanding* (Prov. 3:5-6); relying on the Lord’s power and not our own desire for control; and, following the Lord’s *righteous way* and not our *own wayward hearts* that often turn to wickedness and evil (6:5)

⁵ **Righteousness:** To be righteous is to reflect the *righteous life* of God as revealed by His Word and commands. One can seek to be *righteous* either by *faith* or by the *flesh*. By faith, the *righteous one* submits to and trusts in the Lord God alone to be considered *righteous* (Gen. 6:9). Recognizing their *deadness of flesh*, they entrust themselves into the Lord’s care. To seek righteousness in the *flesh*, one trusts their own *understanding* and ability to full God’s commands perfectly. But, starting from a position of unbelief, that is, replacing the Lord’s with Self’s Rule, is by definition *unbelief* and *idolatry*.

□6. Blessed Family: Inheriting Fruitful Future.

Read Genesis 8:20- 9:27

How does God bless righteous a family with a fruitful future?

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. **Genesis 9:1**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. How does Noah live as the head of his household to create a God-honoring family?

QA. How does God bless us as Noah’s future generations?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How do Noah's actions lead to God's family blessing? (8:20- 9:7)

1. Faithful Father: Bringing God's Blessing Home. As the *head* of his family, Noah comes before the Lord in worship. Noah offers *burnt offerings* as a *pleasing aroma* to the Lord, which moves the Lord's heart to *covenantal love* (8:20-21) and *blessing* over Noah and his sons (9:1). In this way, parents act in a *priestly role* to offer to the Lord pleasing sacrifices, affirming the Lord's covenantal love and blessing.

Q2. How does God's Covenant protect our future? (9:8-13)

2. Protective Covenant: Freedom to Grow. Though Noah and the generations of his sons would still struggle with their *evil-inclining flesh*, they would be protected from the threat of the Lord God's global annihilation of *all flesh* as has just overtaken the old world (9:11). Memorialized by the *rainbow*, the Lord's covenantal promise shields Noah's generations from impending destruction, keeping alive the path of repentance and salvation even in the midst of great testing.

Q3. How will Noah's generations have a blessed future? (9:25-28).

3. Future Roles: Serving Lord, Safe-Guarding Name, Sheltered Home.

Following a family crisis, Noah speaks out in anger, yet his prophetic words become a blessing and future promise for his sons and their generations. After his son Ham dishonors him, Noah speaks out against Ham's son *Canaan*. Noah foresees a future of servitude, this this clan's hardships would prepare them to be the *servants* of the Lord (9:26). Noah's eldest son *Shem* would safeguard the knowledge of *God* for the family, even building a spiritual *dwelling* for the family to return to the Lord. So, even as Japheth and his generations multiply abundantly as a family, they still find their spiritual refuge in the house of Shem (27).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How does God bless families with a fruitful future?

1.6. Blessed Family: Inheriting a Fruitful Future: Consider how the Lord God has blessed us as the peoples who survived the great flood as the generations of Noah's children! The Lord God has truly blessed us and made us fruitful, all thanks to our Godly Father Noah, who brought God's blessing to our family. Will you bring God's blessing to your family?

Notice that Noah first *devoted himself* to the Lord, giving him sacrificially a *pleasing* offering (Gen. 8:21). Are you willing to sacrifice your life and possessions to *please* the Lord God (Rom. 12:1-2). Moved by Noah's *devotion*, the Lord *blesses* Noah's family with *fruitful multiplication*, a blessing we see fulfilled today. Noah's generations fill the earth with families, clans and nations.

Seek to secure the Lord's *blessing and favor* upon your family by living a *righteous life* before the Lord!

Notes⁶: Promised Future of Noah's Sons: Promised Spiritual Life.

Noah and his sons witnessed God's wrath poured out on *wicked flesh*, but they embodied God's promise to raise up a Chosen Son to redeem all families back to himself.

So, Noah's prophetic words directed to his sons foretold a future in which each son would play a part in this coming redemption. To Noah's son *Ham* and his son *Canaan*, Noah predicted earthly servitude, but this hardship would prepare this clan to *serve the Lord* (9:25). Thus, many fruitful *servants of the Lord* have emerged from the line of *Ham*. Noah also promised that his eldest son, Shem, would safeguard the true *knowledge* of God and build a spiritual *house* by which the families would return to God (27). So, this *semitic* line coalesced into God's chosen people, the Jews, who gave us both the Bible and Mashiach himself as the family's redeemer. Mashiach builds a spiritual house for the Lord, and Japheth and his generations find refuge in this house!

⁶ **God of Shem:** Thanks to the Hebrew language, we remember God as *elohim*, a name coupled with the singular verb *bara* (created) reveals God as a plural unity who is *one* (*echad*) as pictured by the *family unity* of man and woman become *one flesh* in marriage!

□7. Righteous by Faith: Trust in Chosen Son.

Read Genesis 15

How does Abram demonstrate a faith that is counted to be righteous?

5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:5-6

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. Why does Abram's faith please God, so that he counts him to be "righteous" for it?

QA. How can we place all our hopes and faith in God's Promised Seed, Mashiach, as did Abram?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How would you describe Abram's faith? (15:1-6)

1. Faith in Chosen Son: Helpless Flesh made Righteous. God gives us the perfect picture of faith in Abram. When Abram and his wife were old, the Lord promised that his *son* (lit. *Seed, zera*) would become a multitude of people (15:5). Impossibly, Abram's *flesh* was practically *dead*, incapable of passing on life (Rom. 4:19). Our faith also starts with *helpless flesh*—we are powerless to save or help ourselves (Rm. 7:18). So, Abram faith entirely trusted in the Lord's Word of a promised *Seed* to bring his hope to reality. Our faith also focuses on God's promised *Seed*, the Mashiach, who will redeem our lives back to God (Gal. 3:16).

Q2. What does God promise to do for Abram's generations? (15:13-15).

2. Faithful through Generations: Saving Judgment. The Lord commits himself to Abraham and his family in a *steadfast love* which covers not just Abraham but his generations after him. When Abraham's descendants are *afflicted for four hundred years* (15:13), the Lord promises to *bring judgment* on their oppressors (14) to deliver them. Loving you with this same *steadfast love*, the Lord is faithful to you but your generations as well, who are delivered even through powerful acts of judgment!

Q3. Why does God make a covenant with Abram? (15:18-21)

3. Promise to Chosen Son (Seed): Land Given. Because the Lord knows that Abraham and his generations will walk in his steadfast love, he formalizes His commitment to them in the Abrahamic Covenant (18) to show that both sides—the Lord God and his people, share in a covenantal relationship of love. Through the chosen *Seed*, (18) the Lord fulfills his promise to Abraham's people of an eternal homeland (18).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How does Abram demonstrate a faith that is counted to be righteous?

1.7. Righteous by Faith: Trusting in Chosen Son. Once we were given a perfect, spiritual life with God that made our souls come alive (Gen. 2:7). Imagine being so full of his life that our first parents lived face-to-face with the Living God! But, their sin made us all *dead* in our *flesh* (2:17), and our flesh has recoiled from God in fear ever since (3:10). We are impossibly powerless to be *right* before God in our flesh (Rom. 7:18; 8:6-8).

But, Abraham *believed the Lord* by faith, and it was *counted to him as righteousness* (Gen. 15:6). When the Lord promised Abram a multitude of sons (5), he knew this was impossible in the flesh. Rather, Abraham *clung to the Lord's promised Seed*, the Messiah, to accomplish this. So, God *counted Abram as righteous* (6).

Likewise, when you realize your helplessness in the flesh but instead *trust and entrust* yourself to the Lord's Messiah, God makes you *righteous!*

Notes⁷: Counted as Righteous: Consecrated by Faith. When we come to the Lord powerless in our flesh, like Abraham, giving ourselves to Him that His will and word may be fulfilled in us, then the Lord considers our faith a *righteousness* which pleases him (15:6). Note that Abraham's faith focused entirely on the Lord's *promised Seed* (15:5). That is, he looked forward in faith to the coming Messiah, the one who would one day be born as Jesus.

⁷ **Faith in Chosen Son: Seed of Abraham (Gal. 3:16).** By Jesus Messiah's atoning sacrifice on the cross, Abraham's ransom—the righteous life of God given to him, the forgiveness of his sins, and the right to live eternally as God's child, were all secured for Abraham as his salvation and redemption from God (Rom. 3:21-26). So, faith in the Lord's *promised Seed* (Son) looked forward to the fulfillment of this promise in Jesus Christ.

□8. Faithful to Covenant: Chosen Son and Land

Read Genesis 17

How would God and Abraham and his family generations live together in a covenant relationship?

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” **Gen. 17:7-8.**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. How can we as a family of God’s people walk before him blamelessly?

QA. Why does faithfulness to God require us to consecrate our *fleshly lives* to him, even in its weakness?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. What does the Lord require of Abraham to walk in the covenant?
(Gen. 17:1-8)

1.Faithful to the Lord: Showcasing Glory: God shows his covenantal love for those who will walk with him. So, God reveals himself to Abram as the *Almighty*, the one upon whom Abram can depend. So, He calls Abram to *walk before me and be blameless* (17:1). If Abram and his generations make their lives *known* to the Lord, to be blameless before him, then they enjoy His covenantal love and faithfulness to them.

Q2. How can Abraham and His generations keep the covenant? (17:9-14)

2. Consecrating Flesh: Relentless Glory: A *covenant* is when two parties *offer themselves* to live differently together. In our natural state, the *flesh*, we selfishly resist any change or imposition. So, God calls Abraham and his generations to *consecrate* their *flesh* to Him (11). The physical act of circumcision marks Abraham and his generations of sons as *belonging* to the Lord, set apart to be *holy* to him (12-13). Likewise, we who enter God's covenant must also realize that we are offering ourselves to the Lord, consecrating to the Lord even our earthly and rebellious parts.

Q3. How will the Lord God relate to generations of his covenant people?
(17:15-23)

3. Blessing on House: Fruitful Testimon: Because covenantal people offer themselves *by faith*, entrusting to the Lord's care their lives and welfare, the Lord God works in them to showcase His grace and creative power, which far exceeds any natural human limitation! So, the Lord God impossibly blesses, and a hundred year-old man and a ninety year-old woman are given a *son!* (18). Nothing is impossible with God!

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How do the Lord and Abraham relate to one another as Lord and Servant?

1.8. Faithful to Covenant: When our first parents fell to sin and became orphaned from God, the Lord God resolved to redeem Adam's family through His promised Seed, the Messiah. One with God from the beginning (Gen. 1:1) as God's Heir and the Prince of Peace (Gen. 1:7; Is. 9:6), the Messiah was to be the Heir of Adam's family to inherit the *heavens* and the *earth* (Gen. 2:4).

So, throughout humanity's generations, the Lord God gives Messiah the inheritance of key families. So, the Lord *covenants* with Abram so that His Messianic Seed would be the Heir of Abraham's family *through generation for an everlasting covenant* (17:7). Your Messiah is not dispossessed. He has an everlasting people (6) and a land (8).

Our Messiah does not come to us as a stranger. He redeems us as the Firstborn Son of the Jewish people, possessing *land* that becomes the homeland of our eternal Kingdom in Israel (8). Because Abraham was faithful to the covenant, all our families can come home to God through Jesus Messiah and His family Israel!

Notes⁸: Promised Seed: God chose Adam's line to one day be His people, the "generations" of the "heavens and the earth" (Gen. 2:4). So, when our first parents fell into sin and we lost everything to spiritual death (Gen. 3:17), the Lord promised a redeeming Seed, the chosen Son and Heir of our family line to break the enemy's power over us (Gen. 3:15). God promised that through the family of Shem, all earth's families would return home to the Lord God's blessing (9:27).

So, through our family generations, the Lord God promised that this Messianic Seed/ Son would inherit the blessings of key families to bring us all home to God: Shem, Terah, and the Seed of Abraham (22:17-18); Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Perez, and the Seed of David (2 Sam. 7:12-16). All to equip Him to be the Redeemer of all the families of the Earth!

⁸ **Chosen Son (Seed) of Abraham: Messiah.** The God entrusts the fulfillment of the covenant's promise to Abram's *Seed*, the Chosen Son and Heir over his entire family and their generations (17:9). Not only does the Lord *multiply* this single Heir *into a multitude* (15:5), but He entrusts the family's *inheritance* of the *land* (17:8) as an *everlasting possession* (17:8) to this Heir who then distributes it to the *multitude* with him.

☐9. Chosen Servant: Building a Godly Home.

Read Genesis 18

How do the Lord and Abraham relate to one another as Lord and Servant?

19 For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” **Genesis 18:19**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. Why does the Lord want Abraham and Sarah to build a household that follows the way of the Lord?

QA. How can we live together as a family of faith that pleases the Lord?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Lord respond to Sarah's doubt in his promise of a son?
(18:1-3, 9-15)

1. Lord's Good Promise: Nothing Impossible. When the Lord promised Abraham and Sarah a *son* in their old age, Sarah laughed because she doubted such an unlikely outcome. Sarah doubted because she focused on her earthly reality, so the Lord points out that *her faith* should rest on His powerful person rather than her circumstances, saying: *Is anything too hard for the Lord?* (18:14).

Q2. Why is it important to the Lord that Abraham builds a home that follows the *way of the Lord*? (19:16-19)

2. Building Righteous Home: Chosen to Lead House in Way of Lord: The Lord had chosen Abraham to bring all nations of the earth back to his *blessings* and to become a *great and mighty nation* (18:18). God promised a *righteous Redeemer* and a *righteous people to Abraham*, and both these promises required Abraham to cultivate a *righteous family* which kept the *way of the Lord* (19). So, the Lord God loves fulfilling his promises to us as families if we keep His way in *righteousness and justice!*

Q3. How does Abraham plead for the *righteous remnant in Sodom*? (19:20-26)

3. Pleading for the Righteous: Righteous Spared Judgment. Abraham appeals to the justice of the Lord God when asking for the *righteous* to be preserved in God's coming judgment of wicked Sodom and Gomorrah. He expects God as the *Judge of all the earth* to do what is *just* (25), and such a worshipful prayer touches the Lord's heart.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How do the Lord and Abraham relate to one another as Lord and Servant?

Chosen Servant: Building Godly Home: Imagine Abraham, a man of mere *dust and ashes* (Gen.18:27) invited by the Lord to *stand* before him (22) in *holy conference* to discuss the fate of an entire city. Why did the Lord Almighty consider Abraham a voice that mattered? The Lord God knows that His Godly ones matter because their lives and family generations secure a future shaped by *the Lord's promises* and *fulfilled Word* (18:19). Will you present yourself and your family to the Lord, as Godly ones whose lives matter, through whom the Word of God and its blessed future will bear fruit in this world?

To be a Godly servant like Abraham in this world, be ready to *believe* God to work not just what is *hard* but the humanly impossible. For, the Lord holds his servants to nothing less than the impossible to reveal His power in *weak flesh* (2 Cor. 12:9-10). So, the Lord waits until Abraham is nearly a hundred years old and Sarah is *worn out* to act and give them their son, Isaac (18:14).

Also, be faithful over your family. The Lord trusted Abraham to *command his children faithfully* so that His Godly life would be multiplied until he became a *great and mighty nation* to bless *all the nations of earth* (17). When you invest your Godly life into your family, you ensure generations of Godly descendants resembling you in character! Be willing to *stand* for the Lord as you stand *before Him* as His Godly one!

Notes⁹: Household of Faith. The Lord God had an unlikely regard for Abraham, whom he talked with face-to-face, and this favor was tied to Abraham's faithfulness in creating a God-fearing household! First, Abraham was able to *command* his children and his household to keep the Lord's *ay* (19). Second, this faithfulness resulted in a home walking in *righteousness and*

⁹ **Judgment:** As the Judge of the Earth (18:25), the Lord has a responsibility to *see* whether or not the *sin of Sodom and Gomorrah* is indeed *grave* (21). The Lord *judges* with a direct and true assessment of one's spiritual condition, without relying on human explanations or self-justifications. If you fall under the Lord God's judgment, he will assess your guilt or innocence entirely using His perfect knowledge whether you agree or not.

justice, family qualities which passed on through the generations to even shape His Messiah!

☐10. Heart-breaking Faith: Sacrificing All in Holy Fear.

Read Genesis 22

Why does the Lord reward Abraham's Holy Fear?

12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." **Genesis 22:12**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. Why does the Lord God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, whom he loved above all others?

QA. How can we have a sacrificial faith like our father Abraham, which entrusts into the Lord's hands as sacrifice all we have and all we are? How does the Lord God reward such a holy fear?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. *How does the Lord test Abraham? Why does he test him? (22:1-3).*

1. Called to Sacrifice: Giving up what we love: The Lord God is owed the highest devotion and total obedience, yet He lets his servants choose what they will offer him. To test the extent of Abraham's devotion, the Lord asks him to offer up his *only son Isaac* (22:2). For, the Lord offers his fellowship to those whose hearts reflect his own sacrificial love. For He himself would give up *his only son, whom he loved* (Jn. 3:16).

Q2. *How do Abraham's words and actions reveal His faith? (22:4-8)*

2. Heart-breaking Faith: Entrusting Everything to Lord. Not only was Abraham's faith response to the Lord's request quick—*rising early in the morning* (22:3) and hopeful—telling his servants that he and his son would *come again to you* (5), but it was heart-breaking (8), for he had to respond tenderly to Isaac, *here I am, my son*, knowing the deadly path of faith before them (7).

Q3. *How does Abraham gain the Lord's approval? (22:9-18)*

3. Holy Fear: Obeying the Lord whole-heartedly. By taking steps that would lead to the *slaughter his son* (22:10), Abraham showed that nothing was higher than his own regard for the Lord God—not the precious life of his son, nor even his own tender feelings of fatherhood and hopes for a fruitful future in Isaac. The Lord God recognized Abraham's faith as a holy *fear* of God (12), which proved that Abraham was completely devoted!

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How is Abraham's Holy Fear of the Lord rewarded?

Holy Fear of God: Heart-breaking Faith Sacrifices All: The Lord's great regard for Abraham honored him with the greatest test—acquainting Abraham with the very sacrifices that broke his own heart. Abraham's Holy Fear of God was proven genuine as his heart-breaking faith sacrificed all to the Lord!

When God pledges his *covenantal, steadfast love* to those of his family, he knows that such love will *break His heart*. As one of Abraham's sons writes, "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son..." (John 3:16a). God's love would cost him the life of His own Son.

So, the Lord God allows Abraham to share with Him this heart-breaking and sacrificial love, instructing him: *take your son Isaac, whom you love... and offer him... as a burn offering* (22:2).

Strengthened to obey the Lord's command by faith, how Abraham's heart must have still broken to hear Isaac ask, "My father... where is the lamb" (7)?

Like Abraham, prove the *strength* of your *faith* and the depths of your *holy fear*, by your heart's willingness to offer to the Lord in sacrifice whatever pleases him. Offer to the Lord your deepest *loves* (22:2).

God entrusts himself to His Godly ones who fear Him as the Most High God, putting him above even their own heart's desire.

Notes¹⁰: Fearing God: Abraham *feared God* because he regarded the Lord God as *holy*—as having the highest *right* to ask for the life of his son, yet also the greatest power to *restore* life to his son once offered in sacrifice. Thus, Abraham had a *holy fear* of God, which is the beginning of all knowledge (Pr. 1:7). The *flesh* is afraid of God due to its guilt. Abraham is blameless in his fear.

¹⁰ **Rightful Offering:** Faith *understands* the world through the *Word of God* (Heb. 11:3). By *faith*, accept and submit to the Word and the Lord God's authority to *define* for you the *good life* to pursue and the *evil* to reject. When you hear the Word of God, faith means that you trust the Lord to do what He says and you *entrust yourself* to the Lord to obey and be transformed with the Word's truth.

Prayer Requests:

Request/ Date:	Answer Prayer/ Thankfulness

Journaling: What is the Lord teaching me/ Doing in my life?

Weekly Sermon Notes:	Lord's Lessons and Works in my life:

Devoted to the Lord:

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ Mark 12:30.

As Jesus instructed us, we are to *love the Lord our God* with all that we have, with all our lives. In the Bible, such love is a *giving* love, to present to him all of who you are... heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Importantly, we give, that is, *devote* ourselves to him every day. Why? Because it is too easy to lose focus and give ourselves to unworthy things. We give ourselves up to the *flesh*, to live merely in satisfying our own desires. To the world and its agendas and anxieties, following its own purposes. And, even to things such as career, ambition, or greed.

To keep your faith focused on God and your love given faithfully to Him, have regular *devotional times* with the Lord. Every day, in the morning or some other good time, commit to meeting with the Lord in *devotion*. This booklet helps you go through keep Bible passages to hear from God and share with your friends, family, and fellowship groups. Start here!

Devote yourself to the Lord God: At the start of every devotional, use the Checklist below to Devote All of who you are to the Lord! Position yourself to hear the Word from Him in *faith*. *Do you have a...*

1. Devoted Soul: Humbled under Lord not Self (Serpent)- Serving

16 And the **Lord God commanded** the man, saying, “**You may surely eat** of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** you **shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**” Genesis 2:16-17, also Gen. 3:1-6

Humbled Under Lord God (2:17)

- Led by *Lord God* (2:17)
- Under *Commanding Authority*
- *Freely obeys for good life;*
- Rejects sin and *evil* leading to *death*.

Self (Serpent)-Serving (3:1-6)

- Listening to Worldly Serpent who questions God (3:1)
- *Self is like God* as own Lord (3:5)
- *Self-righteous Self decides fleshly good* (6)
- *Self-interested Self decides fleshly evil to avoid.*

2. Devoted Mind: Faith in Lord not Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding
Trust in the Lord with all your **heart**, and do not **lean** on your **own understanding**. 6 In all your ways **acknowledge him**, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be **not wise** in your **own eyes**; **fear the Lord**, and **turn away from evil**. Prov. 3:5-7; also Gen. 3:6-7

Faith in Lord (2:17)

- Fear Lord as the only true God (Prov. 3:7)
- Trust in God as Lord of power, truth, and will (3:5);
- Be willing to follow His *ways* and honor him in your life (6) and turn from evil (7).

Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

- Flatter Self as *wiser* than God (3:7).
- Trust in own understanding to know truth, purpose, power (5).
- Find earthly reasons to sin and follow your own way not the Lord's commands (Gen. 3:6-7).

3. Devoted Heart: Loving God as Father not Worldly Flesh

15 Do not **love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father** is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the **desires** of the **flesh** and the **desires** of the **eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the **world is passing** away along with its desires, but whoever does **the will of God** abides **forever**. 1 John 2:15-17

Loving God as Father (2:15)

- Loves the Father (15)
- Desires to do the Will of God (17)
- Seeks what *abides forever* (17).

Worldly Flesh (16)

- Loves the World (2:15)
- Follows the desires of flesh, what it sees as *good*, and its *prideful life in the world* (16)
- Clings to a world that is *passing away* (17).

4. Devoted Strength: Giving Body as a Living Sacrifice not Conformed to World

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, **by the mercies of God**, to **present** your **bodies as a living sacrifice, holy** and **acceptable to God**, which is your **spiritual worship**. 2 Do **not be conformed** to this **world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you

may discern what is the **will of God**, what is **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect**. Rm. 12:1-2

☐ Giving Self as a Living Sacrifice (12:1)

- Gives Body as a Living Sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1).
- Lives sacrificially to be holy, acceptable, and pleasing to God;
- *Transformed by renewing of mind by God's Word (2)*
- Discerns and proves God's Will as *good, acceptable, and perfect (2)*

☐ Conformed to World (2)

- Gives Flesh to be conformed to this world (2);
- Lives by fleshly works not needing God's mercy (1);
- Conforms to the World and its Godlessness;
- Unchanging, fixed, stubborn, fleshly mind.