Assurance of Salvation
WEEK I

Trying to walk with God without the assurance of salvation is like trying to roller skate before you know how to walk. Assurance of salvation is the anchor for our emotions. Knowing there is peace between us and God is the foundation upon which we stand.

Part I. The Integrity of God

1 John 5:13, NIV, I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1. God wants me to **KNOW** I have **ETERNAL LIFE**.
2. The Bible was **WRITTEN** so I could **KNOW**.
3. I will have to **KNOW** the Bible to really know I have eternal life.

The Bible is God's **ROAD MAP** through life. The Bible is a personal **INSTRUCTION** book about how to live a **HAPPY** life. The Bible tells me everything I need to know about **LIFE** and **LIVING FOR GOD**.

If God wrote me a **LETTER**, He would say the same things to me that He said in the **BIBLE**. Trusting what the **BIBLE** says is the same as **TRUSTING** what God says.

Romans 10:8-11, NLT, The Scripture says, "The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart." For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. As the Scripture tells us, "Anyone who believes in Him will not be disappointed."

God's word says there are two things I must do to be saved.

1. I must **BELIEVE** that God raised Jesus from the dead.
2. I must confess Jesus as **LORD**.

Lord means **BOSS**. Since Jesus **GAVE HIS LIFE** for me, I should **GIVE MY LIFE** to Him. When I confess Him as **LORD**, I am acknowledging Him as **BOSS** of **MY LIFE**.

1. Believing makes me **RIGHTEOUS**.
2. Confessing makes me **SAVED**.
I have believed and confessed. I did **MY PART**, I trust God to do **HIS PART**.

**Part II. The Confidence of Obedience**

Jesus said in Luke 14:27, NIV, "And anyone who does not carry his cross and **FOLLOW ME** cannot be my disciple."

The top priority of a disciple is to **FOLLOW** his leader.

If I follow Jesus I will **DO** what He did.

1 John 4:16-17, NIV, "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him."

This scripture says I can have **CONFIDENCE** even in the day of judgement. It says that there are two things that will give me confidence.

1. When I live in **LOVE**.

2. When I live in this world like **JESUS**.

Obedience did not get me **SAVED** or make me **RIGHTeous**.

But it does determine if I have **CONFIDENCE**.

In order to have confidence I must **FOLLOW JESUS**.

1 John 3:16, NIV, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

1. I can lay down my life for my brothers and express my **LOVE** by finding a place to **SERVE**.

2. I can begin do what Jesus did by following Him in **WATER BAPTISM** and public **CONFESSION**.

1 John 3:21, NIV, "Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God"

**Colossians 1:21, NIV**, "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior."
Renewing My Mind
WEEK II

Colossians 2:5, Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

We should have the same ATTITUDE, or POINT OF VIEW that Jesus had.

2 Corinthians 10:5, Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Vain imaginations are THOUGHTS and OPINIONS that are inconsistent with God's point of view.

I should CAST DOWN any unscriptural perspective.

Romans 12:2, NIV, Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

I experience TRANSFORMATION as I renew my mind. This causes me to KNOW GOD'S WILL.

Renewing my mind is changing my PARADIGM.

Part I. The paradigm shift

Everyone sees the world from their POINT OF VIEW. My point of view may not be HOW IT IS, it is simply HOW I SEE IT. I have fears, prejudices, sources of pain and sources of pleasure that are based on the way I see things. How I see things is my PARADIGM.

My paradigm is based on my BELIEFS. To change my paradigm I must CHANGE MY BELIEFS.

When I was a SINNER I looked at the world and INTERPRETED the world like a sinner. Now that I am a BELIEVER I must change the way I view the world and UNDERSTAND its events. This paradigm shift is what the Bible calls RENEWING THE MIND.

Part II. The power of the paradigm
How I **SEE GOD** will affect my life more than any other belief I have.

How I see God is a paradigm based on my **BELIEFS**.

Where does my **VIEW OF GOD** come from?

**1. THINGS OTHER PEOPLE TOLD ME.**

**2. THINGS PREACHED TO ME.**

**3. WHAT A DENOMINATION TAUGHT ME.**

**4. MY FATHER.**

**5. THE BIBLE.**

Mark 7:5-9, NIV, "So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, ‘Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders? ’ 6 He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men. 8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.” 9 And he said to them: ‘You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.’"

Traditions are the **BELIEFS, IDEAS, CONCEPTS, OPINIONS** and **SUPERSTITION** that I have accepted as truth. Any tradition that is not **BASED ON THE BIBLE** is not truth. If I continue to accept it as truth it will **BRING PAIN** and problems in my life.

If I hold to **TRADITIONS** my heart will be **FAR FROM GOD.**

To hold to tradition I have to **SET ASIDE THE WORD OF GOD.**

Matthew 5:8, Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall **SEE GOD.**

I cannot see God **AS HE IS** if I hold on to my old, religious paradigms and **TRADITIONS.**

**Part III. Who is God?**

How can I know who God is? How can I know what He is like? How do I overcome negative concepts of God? These are questions that every new believer wants to know.

Is God angry?

*Romans 4: 23-25,a, NLT, For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet now*
God in His glorious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus who has freed us by taking away our sins. For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sanctifying his life for us.

Since Jesus **TOOK THE PUNISHMENT** for all of our sins, **GOD IS NOT ANGRY**.

2. How can I please God?

Hebrews 11:6, **Without FAITH it is impossible to please God.**

When I **TRUST** God, it is pleasing to Him.

3. Do I have to be afraid that God will do bad things to me?

1 John 4:18, TLB, **We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; his perfect love for us eliminates all dread of what He might do to us. If we are afraid, it is for fear of what He might do to us, and shows that we are not fully convinced that He really loves.**

There is no reason to be **AFRAID OF GOD**.

4. What must I do to get Him to accept me?

*Ephesians 1:6, He has made us accepted in the beloved.*

I am **ACCEPTED**, I am **IN JESUS**.

5. Will He leave me or stop loving me if I fail?

*Romans 8:35, 38, NLT,* "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry or cold, or in danger or threatened with? I am convinced that nothing can separate us from His love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away."

**NOTHING** can separate me from **GOD** and His **LOVE FOR ME**.

6. How can I see God?

*John 14:9, Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.*

*Hebrews 1:3, NIV,* **The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.**

Every thing that Jesus did in the **GOSPELS**, shows me exactly what God is like.
He was always **MERCIFUL**, and walked in **LOVE**.

Does He make me go through things to teach me?

*John 14:26, NIV, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

God uses the **BIBLE** and the **HOLY SPIRIT** to teach me, not hard times.

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**My New Identity**

**WEEK III**

True **HUMILITY** is to accept God's view and opinion above your own. Accepting God's **VIEW** and **OPINION** is the pathway to wisdom. Pride is when we insist that our view and opinion is **REALITY**. *Proverbs 16:18, NIV, Pride goes before **DESTRUCTION**, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

Our **SELF-PERCEPTION** is one of the main places we must humble ourselves and **ACCEPT GOD'S VIEW AND OPINION**.

1 Peter 5:6, **HUMBLE** yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may **EXALT** you in due time:

Humility is the pathway to **GREATNESS** before God.

If God says I can,**I CAN**!

If God says I am,**I AM**!

If God says it's mine,**IT'S MINE**!

God's view and opinion is **REALITY**.
Part I. The new me

2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **NEW CREATION**; the old has gone, the new has come!

When I accepted Jesus **AS LORD**, the old me **DIED**.

Today I am a **NEW CREATION**. I have a new **IDENTITY**.

My past is **GONE**.

*Jeremiah 31:34, NIV, No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’*

People may **REMEMBER** my past, but God doesn't.

Since God has forgotten my past, I must **FORGET MY PAST**.

Isaiah 43:18, NIV, ``Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.’’

Because I am a new creation in Christ I must **ACCEPT** and dwell on my new identity.

This is who God says I am, what I have and what I can do:

*2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Jesus made me **RIGHTEOUS**.

*Romans 6:14, For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

Sin **HAS NO POWER OVER ME**.

*Galatians 4:7, NIV, So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

I am a **SON** not a **SLAVE**.

I have an **INHERITANCE**.

*Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

I am a **CO-HEIR** with Jesus. This means that all that is His **IS MINE**.
Part II Personal Application

I must **RENEW MY MIND** so that I see myself **AS GOD SEES ME**.

*I Timothy 4:15* Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.
I must **MEDITATE, PONDER, THINK ABOUT** what God says about me.

*Psalm 119: 23* Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees.

When others **SLANDER** me or bring up my past, I must not accept their view of me, I will **MEDITATE** on what God's word says about me.

*Galatians 5: 25* Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Since I am a **NEW CREATION**, filled with **THE SPIRIT**, I will walk **IN THE SPIRIT**.

*Ephesians 4:30* And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

I will not **GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT**, by walking in **UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Following Christ

WEek IV

Part I The source of abundant life

*John 10:10, NIV*, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, have it to the full.

Jesus wants my life to **BE FULL** and **ABUNDANT**.

*Matthew 11:28, NIV*, ``Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29) Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Jesus wants my life to be and **EASY** and **LIGHT**.
**John 15:11, NIV**, I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Jesus wants me to have **JOY**.

All of this has been **PROVIDED** for us in Jesus. As we **WALK WITH HIM** we are able to walk in the abundance and joy He has provided.

**Matthew 28:18-20, NIV**, Then Jesus came to them and said, ``All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

I am called to be a **DISCIPLE**. A disciple is a **STUDENT** and a **FOLLOWER** of Christ. As a disciple I learn to **TRUST** and **OBEY** God. I follow Him as He leads me into **ABUNDANT LIFE**.

**1 Corinthians 6:19,20, NIV**, Do you not know that your body is a **TEMPLE** of the Holy Spirit, whom you have received from God? You are not **YOUR OWN**; 20) you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

God purchased my life with **THE BLOOD OF JESUS**.

He does not take my life from me, instead He allows me to **MANAGE** my life for Him. This is what the Bible calls a **STEWARD**. A steward manages his **LIFE**, **TIME** and **RESOURCES** for the Kingdom of God.

**Part II Serving, The pathway to abundant life**

Where do I go to serve God, how do I learn what to do for Him and His Kingdom.

**Ephesians 4:11, 12, NIV**, It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

It is the pastor's job to **PREPARE ME TO SERVE**.

There are many ways to serve. All areas are equally **IMPORTANT**. The best place to serve would be in areas where I have **SKILLS** and **TALENTS**. If I do it **UNTO THE LORD** it is
like a spiritual gift.

Who benefits the most when I serve?
Ephesians 4:14, NIV, Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

As I serve I will **GROW**. I will become **STABLE** in my walk with God.

Is my part really that important?
Ephesians 4:15-16, NIV, Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The **WHOLE BODY** grows only as each part does its work.

I must **DO MY PART** for the body of Christ to be whole.

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**My Relationship With God**

**WEEK V**

Jesus came to bring us into a **RELATIONSHIP**. **GOD HAS ALWAYS WANTED** to have a relationship with us. My relationship with God is **MORE IMPORTANT** than what I do for Him. What I do for Him happens because I **LOVE** Him and have a relationship with Him.

*John 17:3, NIV, Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

Eternal life speaks of **QUALITY OF LIFE**.

The word "life" comes from the Greek word "zoe" which means the quality of life possessed by the one giving it.

God gave me the **QUALITY** of life that **HE HAS**.

I experience this life by **KNOWING** Him, **TRUSTING** Him and **WALKING WITH** Him.
Part I Knowing God through the Bible

*I Timothy 2:15, Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

**BIBLE STUDY** is one of the first ways I come to know God.

Psalm 138:2, *NIV, I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.*

I can DEPEND on God's Word as sure as I can depend on His NAME.

*Psalm 119:105, NIV, Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

God's Word MAKES MY PATH CLEAR AND STRAIGHT.

*Proverbs 4:20-22, NIV,  My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words.  Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;  for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.*

God’s Word can show me how to have PHYSICAL HEALTH.

*Psalm 119:11, NIV, I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

God’s Word can guide me away from SIN AND PAIN.

*Psalm 119:130, The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

God’s Word can give me UNDERSTANDING and make me WISE.

Part II:  Knowing God through Prayer

The Bible teaches me ABOUT GOD, prayer gets me INVOLVED with God.

*Jeremiah 33:3, NIV, ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’*

I should pray when I need ANSWERS.
James 1:5, NIV, If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

I should pray when I need **WISDOM**.

Matthew 26:41, Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

I should pray when I am **TEMPTED**.


I should pray when I am **IN TROUBLE**.

Psalm 55:17, Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. 1 Thessalonians 5:17, NIV, pray continually;

I should pray **AT ALL TIMES**.

Prayer is **TALKING TO GOD** and **LISTENING** to God.

God speaks to my **HEART**. I judge what I hear by the **BIBLE**.

The greatest formula for a successful life is to **BELIEVE** what I read in the Bible, to **PRAY** about everything and **OBEY** anything God says.

Do I have to pray a certain way?

Matthew 6:7, But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

God **DOES NOT HEAR** because I use a formula. He hears me because I am in Jesus.

In prayer I can talk to God about **ANYTHING**. He is **INTERESTED** in **EVERY** area of my life. I can pray **OUT LOUD**, I can pray **SILENTLY**.

**Part III: Experiencing God in Worship**

Ephesians 5:28-32, NIV, In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—30 for we are members of his body. 31 ’For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the
two will become one flesh.” 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

The relationship between the church and Jesus is compared to the relationship between a

**HUSBAND** and **WIFE**. Praise and worship is the way I express my **LOVE** and **APPRECIATION** to God for **WHAT HE HAS DONE**, what He **IS DOING** and **WHO HE** **IS**. Just as I learn to **EXPRESS** my love to my spouse, I learn to express my love to God.


When I am in trouble I should **PRAY**, when I am happy I should **PRAISE**. The Bible gives some ways to **EXPRESS** my praise and worship.

Psalm 33:8 *Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world STAND in awe of him.*

Psalm 95:6, NIV, *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us KNEEL before the LORD our Maker;*

Psalm 95:1, NIV, *Come, let us SING for joy to the LORD; let us SHOUT aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*

Psalm 47:1, *O CLAP your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.*

1 Timothy 2:8, NIV, *I want men everywhere to LIFT UP HOLY HANDS in prayer, without anger or disputing.*

Psalm 134: 2 *Lift up your hands IN THE SANCTUARY and praise the LORD.*

Psalm 149:3, NIV, *Let them praise his name with DANCING and make music to him with tambourine and harp.*

Praise and worship is where I **EXPRESS** my love and **EXPERIENCE** His love.

Praise and worship is done **PUBLICLY**, in church and **PRIVATELY**. Both are important.
Conquering Strongholds
WEEK VI

Part I: Limiting Beliefs

Strongholds are **BELIEFS** that hold us at our present level of life. They are the **LIMITS** we have placed on ourselves. We all have beliefs that limit us and rob us of our dreams. Because God’s Spirit and power are in us, we **CAN** fulfill any of our dreams. It is not our circumstances or education or weaknesses that stop us from living our dreams. It is our **BELIEFS**!

Through our beliefs we even limit **GOD’S** ability to work in our life.

*Psalm 78: 41* “Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.” The children of Israel limited God. We can limit God!

God wants us to live our dreams and be happy. The only thing **PREVENTING** this is our beliefs. Beliefs are revealed through **ACTIONS**. Every action is based on a belief. Actions can only be permanently changed through changing beliefs.

We must **IDENTITY** our limiting, destructive beliefs and replace them with God’s **PROMISES** for our life. When we believe the truth, the **GRACE** of God is present to empower us to live that truth.

**Example:** A person may believe that no one will like him if they discover his faults. So he lies to cover his faults and make himself look better. He blames others when he makes mistakes. Now he lives in fear of being caught in a lie. Additionally, he cannot allow anyone to get too close for fear that they will see the truth. So, in the end he is living in his fear. He doesn’t have friends. His unbiblical beliefs produced an unbiblical way of handling his problem. In the end his actions drove people away from him.

What is the belief he must change? **PEOPLE ONLY LOVE ME IF I HAVE NO FAULTS.**

What is the sin he must give up? **LYING, PRIDE, ETC.**

Now he must **REPLACE** the old belief with a new biblical belief.
The Bible says to **CONFESS** our faults not hide them. When we confess our faults, people forgive us. When we lie about our faults people condemn us.

**Part II: Understanding Sin**

Romans 6:23, “*For the WAGES of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

God does not **PUNISH** or stop loving us for our sin. God warns us about sin because sin **DESTROYS** us. Sin is not a list of things that can turn God against us. Sin is a list of things that bring **PAIN** into our life.

*Example:* When a manufacturer puts a warning on a product that says it will be fatal if swallowed, it does not mean that the manufacturer will kill us if we eat it. It means that the product has the power within itself to be fatal. God warned us about the effects of sin because He loves us. God doesn’t hurt us because we sin, sin hurts us.

This is called the law of **SOWING** and **REAPING**.

Galatians 6:7,8, NIV, “*Do not be DECEIVED: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who SOWS to please his sinful nature FROM THAT NATURE will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

If I plant **CORN**, I will **GROW** corn. If I plant **SIN**, I will grow **DESTRUCTION/PAIN**. It is my **CHOICE** what I plant.

The Bible teaches that sin is any belief that is not based on the Word of God.

Romans 14: 23, NIV, “*everything that does not come from faith is sin.*”

I must base my every belief about who I am and what I can do on the Word of God. My opinion
should not direct my life, God’s opinion should.

**Part III: Pain and Pleasure**

God created man and put him in a garden called **PARADISE**. Man was not created to **SIN** or **DIE**. Death came into the world through **MAN**, not God.

Revelation 21:4, NIV, “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or **PAIN**, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Man was not created to cope with **PAIN**. Pain is not the **WILL OF GOD**, it is the **RESULT OF SIN**.

Romans 5:12, NIV, “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—”

Man was created to live in **PLEASURE**.

1 Timothy 6:17, NIV, “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”

The **NATURE** of man is to **Pursue** pleasure, and **Avoid** pain. The desire for pleasure is stronger than the fear of pain.

One of the greatest pleasures a person can have is the fulfillment of **DREAMS**.

We all have dreams and desires that we long to fulfill. God wants us to fulfill our dreams. He will help us fulfill our dreams.

Proverbs 13:12, NIV, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a **TREE OF LIFE**.”
It is God’s will for me to fulfill my dreams. He has given me His word to direct my thoughts and His Spirit to empower my life.

**Part IV: The Deceitfulness of Sin**

Romans 6:14, NIV, “For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”

Sin has no **POWER** over us. Sin is not **STRONGER** than the grace of God. What is strong is our **DESIRE**.

James 1:14, NIV, “but each one is tempted when, by **HIS OWN** evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.”

The only sins we are tempted to do are the one we **ENJOY**. We do not enjoy the **GUILT** afterwards, or the **SHAME** in our heart and we do not want to get **CAUGHT**, but we enjoy the sin.

The Bible warns that sin is **DECEITFUL**. It warns that sin will **BURDEN** our heart, darken our **UNDERSTANDING** and **KILL US**. It will bring us to a place where we can’t **FEEL** God’s love and we can’t **EXPERIENCE** His **LIFE**.

Ephesians 4:17-20, NIV, “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.”

When pain comes into our life as a **RESULT OF SIN**, we usually deceive ourselves about the **SOURCE OF PAIN**.

Example: When we act in a selfish way and lose a valuable friendship. We seldom acknowledge
that our sin caused the problem. We usually find some way to blame our friend. This is the deceitfulness of sin.

When we sin we convince ourselves that the PAIN is not the result of our SIN. The moment we identify our sin/belief/action as the source of our pain we will no longer have a desire for that sin. Instead we will choose the life of God.

Part V: Changing Your Heart

The only lasting change is EFFORTLESS change. Change that is the product of our efforts will only last when we are putting forth EFFORT. We want to enter into God’s REST.

Hebrews 4:10, “For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.“

We bring about change in our actions by changing what we BELIEVE.

The moment we identify the PAIN that is in our life because of our limiting beliefs; and identify the PLEASURE that could come into our life through accepting new beliefs we will change what we believe. When that new belief is based on God’s Word His grace will make us ABLE to change our actions.

1. Identify a dream or desire that you would like to fulfill.

2. Identify the belief or action that limits you from pursuing that desire.

3. Now make a long list of all the pain that has come into your life because of this belief/action.

As you make that list take a few moments and allow yourself to experience the pain.

Then make a list of all the pain you will experience in the future if you continue to cling to this belief/action.
4. Now what empowering Biblical promise can you use to replace this old belief?

Make a long list of all the pleasure that could come into your life from accepting this new belief.

Take the time to experience those feelings. See yourself a year from now happy and enjoying life.

Imagine how you will feel about yourself!

5. Now pray:

Commit to God to accept His view of the situation

Commit to depend on His grace to change your beliefs and desires.

6. Anytime those old desires should arise, take a few moments to remind yourself of the pain and pleasure. Renew your commitment to God’s Word and you will be empowered by His Spirit.

7. You can use this to conquer any sin, change any belief or any action. After a few weeks it will become second nature for you to walk in your new belief. Transformation is never more than one belief away. You can change any belief in less than 30 minutes. It is worth the investment!