

MY GOD IN MOTION...

What Happened in That Garden?

“...just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin...” Romans 5:12

Virtual Home Group Bible Study

23 Oct 2024

Agenda

- Purpose and Opening
- Topic: What, Why, How
- Discussion
- Resources
- Feedback and Future Topics
- Closing and Send off

Purpose & Opening

Purpose: Exhort one another into Love and Good Works

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some,
but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Opening Prayer:

Thank you for opportunity

Give me Words to deliver Your message

Give us Eyes to See wonderful things from Your perspective

Give us Ears to Hear and understand Your Word

Help us get to know You through Your Word

Help us be transformed into the person You intended us to be

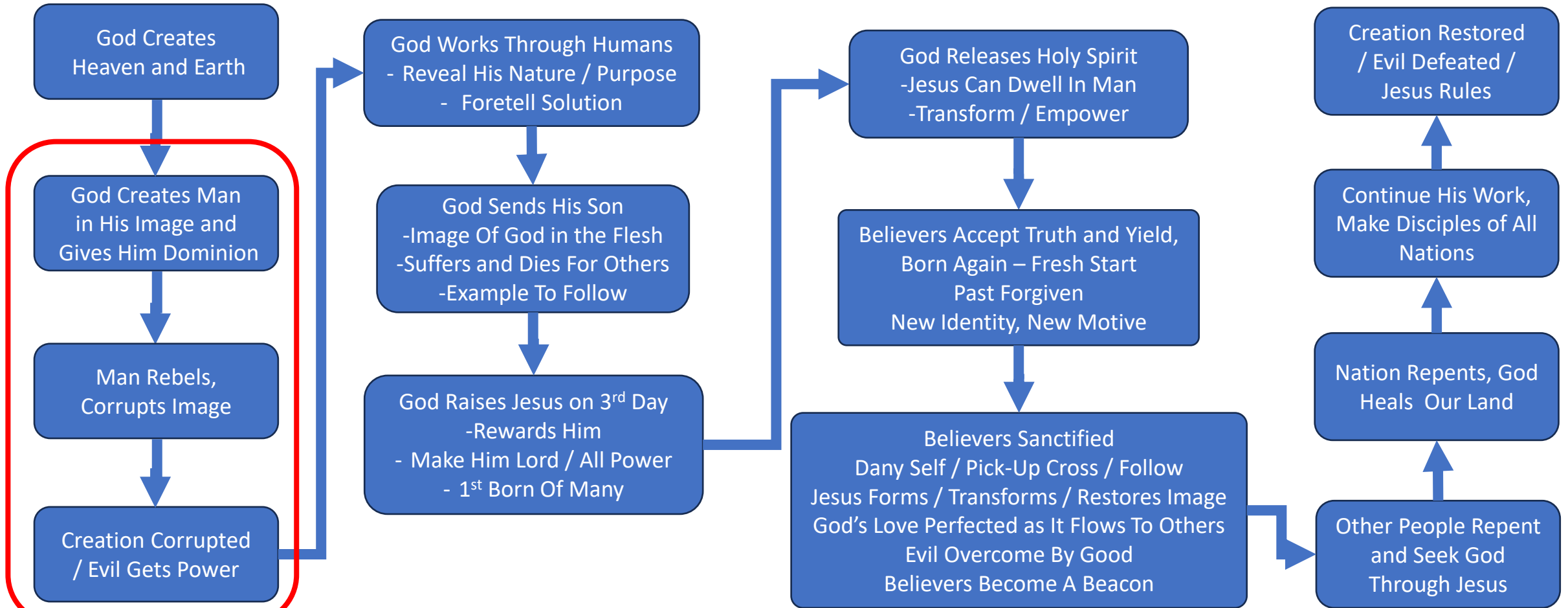
Help us turn Your Words into loving action through our flesh

Help us bring You glory in all we do

Topic

- What: What Exactly Happened In That Garden?
- Why:
 - What happened in the beginning is still impacting us
 - We can begin to recognize the problem
 - We will see why God sent His son
 - We can embrace the solution
 - We can fulfill our purpose

Narrative Arc



Today's Topic

God Made Man In His Image, Gave Dominion

Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, “Let Us **make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, **over all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

...

31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was **very good**...

The Garden, Trees, a Job, Free Will with One Rule

Genesis 2:8-9

8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord **God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.** The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 Then the Lord God took the man and **put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.**

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, **“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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.”**

Man Exercising Dominion, Partnering with God

Genesis 2:19-20

19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And **whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.** 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field...

Man Given Wife, Innocent, All Was Good

Genesis 2:20-25

20 ... But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said:

“This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh....

25 And they were both **naked**, the man and his wife, and were **not ashamed**.

Temptation, Lies, Rationalization, Decision, Action

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘**You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?**”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘**You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.**’ ”

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “**You will not surely die.** 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it **your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,** knowing good and evil.”

6 So when the woman **saw** that the tree was **good** for food, that it was **pleasant** to the eyes, and a tree **desirable** to make one **wise**, she **took** of its fruit and **ate**. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

They Changed: Self-Conscious, Hid From God

Genesis 3:7-11

7 Then the **eyes of both of them were opened**, and **they knew that they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife **hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God** among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

10 So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and **I was afraid** because **I was naked**; and I **hid** myself.”

11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

Self-Conscious: Deflect, Blame Others, Blame God

Genesis 3:11-13

11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

12 Then the man said, “**The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.**”

13 And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “**The serpent deceived me, and I ate.**”

The Immediate Consequences

Genesis 3:14-19

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this,...15 ...**I will put enmity** Between you and the woman, And **between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.**”

16 To the woman He said: “I will greatly **multiply your sorrow** and your conception; In **pain** you shall bring forth children;...”

17 Then to Adam He said, “...**Cursed is the ground** for your sake; In **toil** you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both **thorns and thistles** it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the **sweat** of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; **For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.**”

The Immediate Consequences

Genesis 3:21-24

21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made **tunics of skin**, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to **know good and evil**. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” — 23 therefore the Lord God **sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken**. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

We Inherit Adam's Modified, Flawed Image

Genesis 5:1-3

“...In the day that God created man, He made him in the **likeness of God**. ...

And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and **begot a son in his own likeness, after his image,** and named him Seth.”

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Psalms 51:5

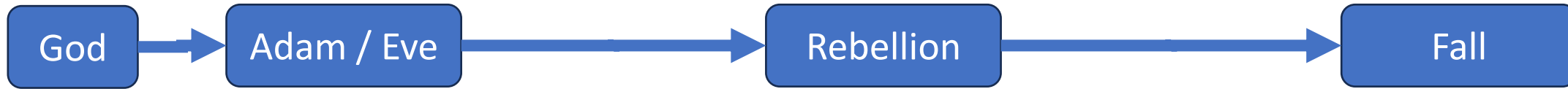
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Romans 1:18-25

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man**—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things....

25 ...who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever.

What Happened In The Garden?



Before

Made man in God's image and likeness
– God is Love

Given dominion over earth

Declared Good

Put in Garden

Do what you want, but one big rule:
“Don't touch or eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil or you will surely die”

Exercising dominion
- Naming the animals

Given Wife

Naked, Innocent, Not afraid

During

Listened to temptation:
- Is God really limiting what you can eat?

Look – Investigate - Contemplate
- Selfish Thoughts / Desires:
- Want what is denied
- Desirable to Be wise “like God”
- Want to Know Good and Evil

Rationalize
- Fruit Good for food
- Fruit Pleasant to look at
- Desirable to be wise like God

Believed lie:
- “Surely you won't die”

Decide to Act:
- Take the fruit (be contaminated)
- Eat the fruit (make it part of you)

After

Eyes Opened - Became Self-conscious
- Realize they are Naked
- Needed to cover themselves
- Become Afraid
- Hid from God - Separated

Self Serving Agenda – Deflect blame
- Adam Blames Eve
- Then Blames God for Eve
- Eve Blames Serpent

Removed from the garden
Labor, Suffer, Die

God shed blood to cloth them
Promised solution from Eve

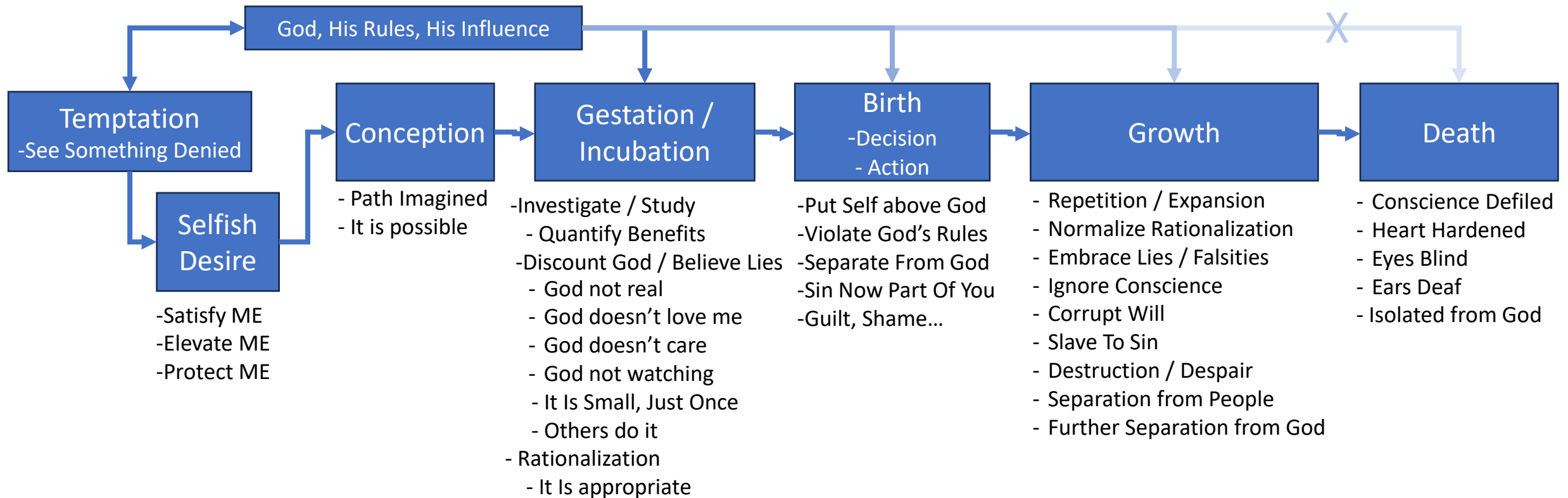
Something surely died – The Image

We inherit Adams “flawed image”

Sin Is A Process

James 1:14-15

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.



Psychological Processes At Work

Reactance:

When people perceive freedoms as being restricted, they often experience a strong emotional reaction known as reactance. This can lead to a heightened desire for the forbidden item to reclaim autonomy.

Selective Attention:

Once you notice something new, your brain starts to actively look for it in your environment, and you start to notice it everywhere.

Attention Focus:

Your brain becomes active as you study something, You become attracted to what you have invested energy learning about.

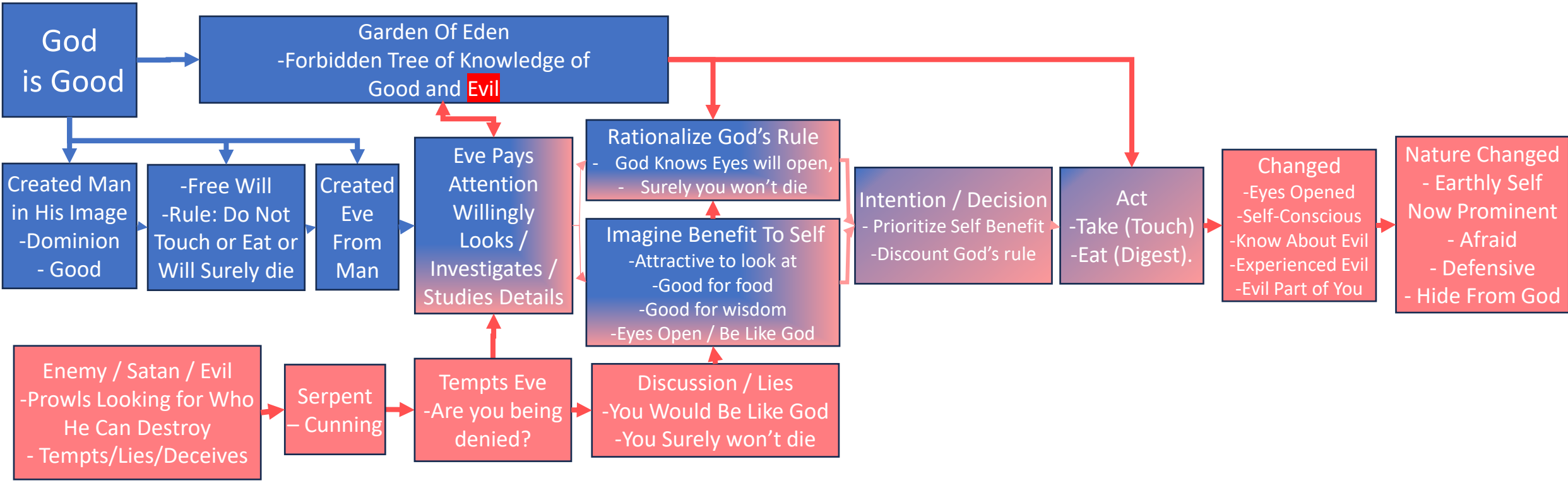
Fantasy and Idealization:

Forbidden things can become idealized in our minds. The act of wanting something that is off-limits can create a fantasy around it, making it seem more perfect or desirable than it might actually be.

Eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

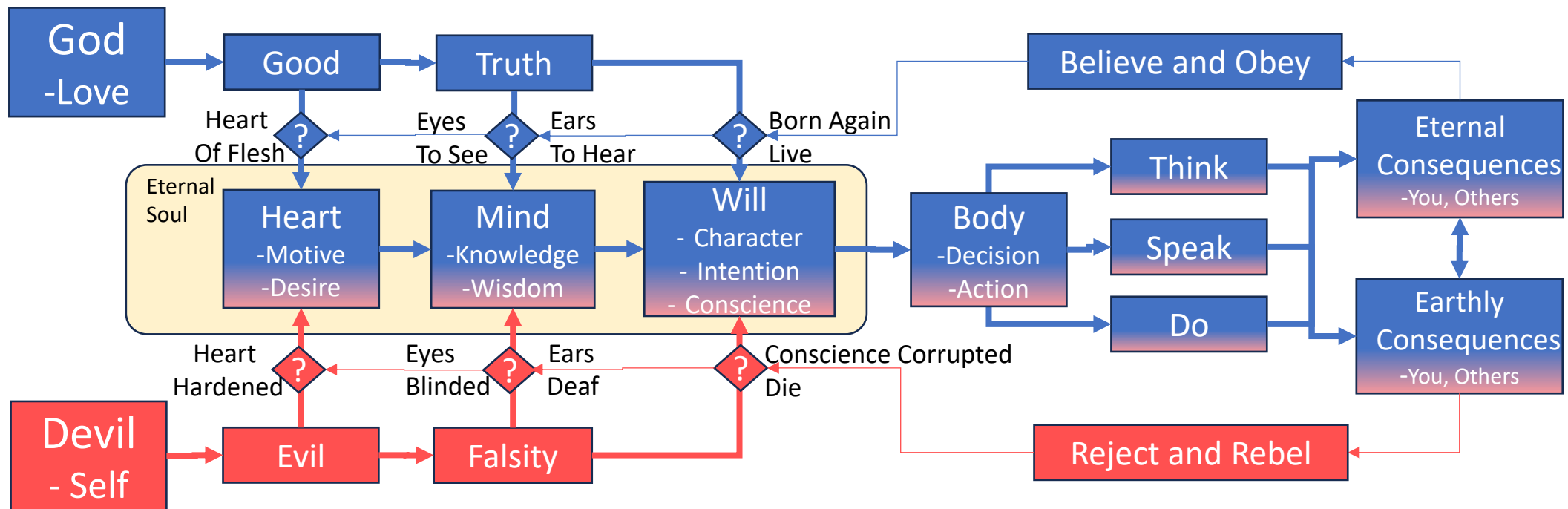
Genesis 2:17

...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.”



We Are Changed By Our Choices

Mark 7:20-23 ...“What comes out of a person is what defiles him”...



What Can We Do To Prevent This Cycle?

- Guard your Heart

Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

- Do Nothing from Selfish Ambitions

Philippians 2:3 - Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- Do All Things to bring God Glory

1 Corinthians 10:31 – “...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”

- Take All Thoughts Captive

2 Corinthians 10:5 - We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

- Renew Your Mind according to God's image.

Colossians 3:10 - “...put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

How: Reflection, Gratitude, Intention

- Watch for ME in thoughts/words/actions
 - Undesired / Instigative thoughts from Selfish desires
 - Self-centered Agendas / Activities – What is your why?
 - Lower view of others
 - Efforts To Raise Up Self Image
- Purposefully Raise God Up
 - Praise – Private and Public – Give Him Credit
 - Gratitude / Thankfulness – Mornings, Evenings, Gratitude Journal
- Find ever more ways to flow love to others
 - Smile
 - Encouraging words
 - Random acts of kindness
 - Serve Others / Good Works

How: Pursue Transformation

What to do when we notice an issue / opportunity / barrier?

- Run to God, Seek His Face
- Thank Him for helping your notice, Caring is a critical first step in change
- Seek to understand the driver (What aspect of self-centered will is not yet yielded)
- Hate the Evil – Understand how It harms others, or limits your usefulness
- Repent, Turn from Evil as Sin against God
- Cut off / Crucify your motive – Declare it Unwanted, Nailed to Cross, Dead
- Yield to the Spirit for Help uproot / overcome / replace the flawed motive
- Claim Promise / Calling to become better
 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me
 - I bury the old me in the grave with Jesus, I am raised into new life with Jesus
 - I am born again, All things old pass a way, Behold ALL things are new
 - I am clay, He is the potter, He will shape me and show His power through me.
 - I am his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works
 - With His Help, I will shine in this dark world and bring Him glory.

Discussion

Does this make sense?

- Questions
- Clarification
- Other Inputs

Practical Experiences?

- Struggles / Barriers
- Strategies to Overcome
- Success / Lesson Learned

- Is this story about this tree and its' fruit figurative or actual history? I don't know for sure, but at a minimum I know the story functions like the parables Jesus told and yields truth we can use.
- How do you engage someone and help them realize there are consequences for their self-centered actions? The best thought I have is to overcome evil with good and be an excellent role model, and hope this path creates an opportunity to engage in constructive discussion at some point.
- How many times do you forgive: The answer is in Mat 18:22 where Jesus tells Peter to forgive his brother 70 times 7.
- How do you deal with folks who persist in causing problems? Pray for them. You may have to separate/distance yourself from physical risk scenarios, but you can still intercede and pray for them to find God and His path forward out of the self-centered mess they are in.
- Most every issue can be traced back to a self-centered desire...Satisfy ME, Elevate ME, Protect ME, etc. And they need to figure that out, sometimes you have access and they are receptive, other times to you must operate from a distance.
- I ask God directly for help to see the path forward. He will tell me "Pray FOR them" or "Pray WITH them" or both and I follow where He leads me as the situation unfolds.

Resources

Identity and Purpose

- Dan Mohler: How to live each day with purpose <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2fzsxXwapE>

Transformation

- Dan Mohler: Water Baptism is a big deal https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gF_vyFvVGy8
- My Blog: Deny Yourself and Pick up your cross
<https://mygodinmotion.org/about-him-god-jesus/principles/deny-yourself-pick-up-your-cross-daily-follow-jesus/>

Become Love

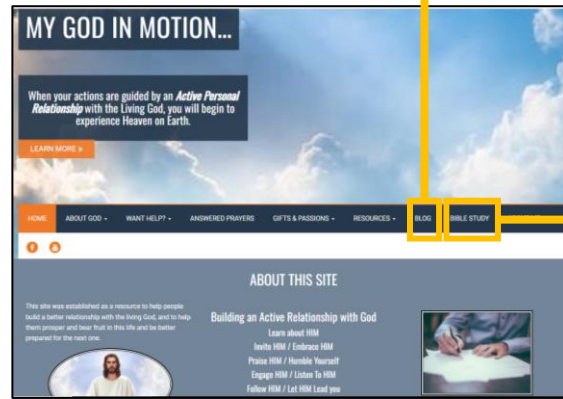
- Random Acts of Kindness: <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>
- My Blog: Become Like Jesus, Become Love
<https://mygodinmotion.org/about-him-god-jesus/principles/become-like-jesus-become-love/>
- My Blog: Have you become Love? Here is a test...:
<https://mygodinmotion.org/about-him-god-jesus/principles/have-you-become-love-here-is-a-test/>
- My Blog: What Is You Why?
<https://mygodinmotion.org/about-him-god-jesus/what-is-your-why/>

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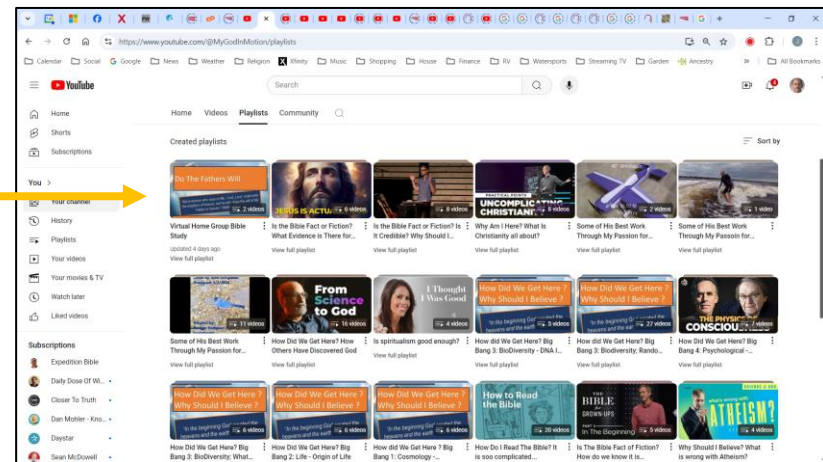
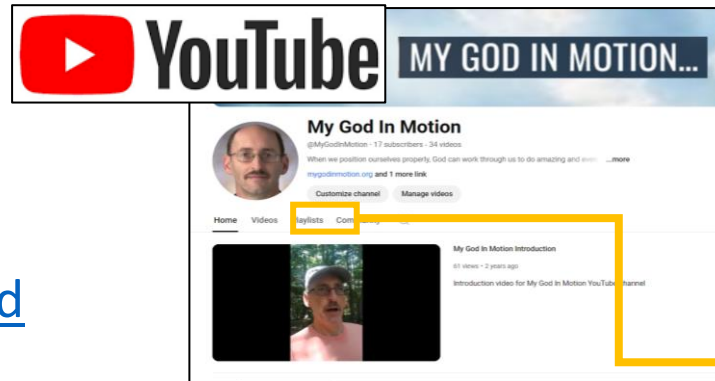
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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MGIMonFB>

Feedback

- What is working: Keep doing
 - ✓ Good Content - Food for thought
 - ✓ Good Mix - Content & discussion
 - ✓ Good Format - Casual / Informal – Easy to engage
 - ✓ Graphics are good/helpful - Draw the story together
- What could be better: Suggestions to consider
 - ✓ Let folks do a quick intro to get familiar
 - ✓ Host to log in at 6:45 so others can get settled online and start on time

Future Topics

Candidate topic for next week: Identity: Who are you “In Christ”?

Recent Activity / Potential Topics:

- Act in Faith to Make Room For Grace!
- How do you Eat the Word of God?
- How do you Restore the Image of God?
- What does it mean to be a Branch of Jesus' Vine?
- How is God's Love perfected through us?
- Fear of God is the beginning of Wisdom!
- Who are You now? Who were you from the beginning?

Any hot topics on your mind?

- How to stand in Faith in end times

Range of Candidate Topics In Appendix

Closing

- Thank You for this opportunity, fellowship, sharing
- Thank you for the gift of Your Word, and Your Son who made it flesh
- May we See, Hear, and Embrace your Word in our Heart, and assimilate it into our flesh
- May we recognize the opportunities within us and around us
- May we seek Your face and embrace Your help to root out our selfish agendas
- May we transform into Your image and perfect the flow of Your love to others
- May we be inspired into the good works that You have prepared
- May we walk in the light as Jesus was in the light
- May we shine as a light in this dark world
- May we become bright beacons for Your kingdom
- May we do all in Your name to bring glory to the Father who sent You

“...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

Appendix

Potential Topics – 1 of 3

God	
	Why should an intelligent person believe in God?
	How can a loving and benevolent God allow suffering?
	Is God "in control" of what happens here?
	What is God's will and How can I understand it?
	When He says love Him with ALL our heart, does he really mean ALL?
Bible	
	What is the Bible and what makes it special/unique?
	What evidence do we have that the Bible is credible?
	Hasn't the bible been corrupted over the years?
	What are the key messages in the bible?
	Am I supposed to take everything in the Bible literally?
	What are the best practices for reading the Bible?
	How does scripture come alive?
	What does it mean to "Eat the word of God"
	What is the "sword of the spirit" and how do I use it
Heaven and Hell	
	What evidence do we have that there is life after death
	What is heaven like
	What is hell like
	How do folks end up in heaven or hell
	Why would a loving God punish people for eternally in hell
	How can I know if I will end up in heaven or hell

Adam/Eve/Sin/Fallen world	
	What happened in the Garden?
	How does sin separate us from God?
	How is all sin rebellion against God?
	How did we inherit a flawed sinful nature from Adam?
	What are the consequences/wages so sin?
Jesus	
	What evidence outside the Bible tells us Jesus was a real person?
	Why did Jesus come here? Just so you could get to heaven?
	Why is it important that Jesus came here as a human - the son of man?
	Was Jesus God? Did he claim to be God?
	Did Jesus exist before He appeared on earth?
	What does it mean that "The Word became Flesh"
	What evidence do we have that Jesus was raised from the dead?
	What evidence do we have that Jesus was the messiah/the Christ?
	What were Jesus' key teaching messages?
	What did He really accomplish on the cross?
	How could Jesus "Become Sin"?
	What is special about His blood and His body?
Holy Spirit	
	What is the trinity and how does that work?
	How do we receive the Holy Spirit?
	What does the Holy Spirit do in us?
	How do I know if I have the Holy Spirit in me?
	Are miracles for today?

Potential Topics – 2 of 3

Salvation
Why do i need a saviour?
I think I am a good person ! Won't that get me into heaven?
My good far outweighs my bad - Won't that tip the scales and get me in?
I am very religious, go to church, do stuff for God - Won't that buy my way in?
God is love, I dont think He would ever punish someone in hell? Woud He?
I said the sinners prayer once? That is all I need to do to get in, isnt it?
What does it mean to "repent" of your sins? Have I done that?
What does it mean to "believe God raised Jesus from the dead"? Do I?
What does it mean to "confess Jesus as Lord"? Have I done it?
What do I have to give up if I make Jesus lord of my life?
What happens when I am saved? How do i know if I am saved?
Sanctification
What is the difference between salvation and sanctification?
What does baptism accomplish? Is it necessary?
I was baptized as an infant is that good enough?
What does "crucify your flesh" mean?
What does it mean to "bury your body of sin"
What does it mean to "put off the old man" and "put on Christ" mean?
What does "Deny yourself, pick up your cross daily, and follow me" mean?
What does it mean to "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind"
What does it mean for "Jesus to form in me"?
What does it mean for "Jesus to live through me"?
What does it mean to "take all thoughts captive"?

Your Identify
What does it mean to be made in God's image?
How do we know God loves us?
What does it mean to be born again?
What does it mean to become a "Child Of God"?
What does it mean to be "the Body of Christ"?
What does it mean to be "In Christ"?
How can God see me as innocent and holy after all I have done?
Guilt, shame, and condemnation is normal isn't it?
Am I really forgiven?
What does it mean to "focus forward"?
Your Purpose
Why are we here? What is our purpose?
How can I find my specific purpose?
We are called to become love. What does that look like?
What stops the flow of God's love?
How do we "perfect" God's love?
We are called to be ambassadors for Christ? How do we do that?
Do you walk in the light as HE is in the light?
Are you a bright light in this dark world?
Are you a bright beacon on a hill?

Potential Topics - 3 of 3

Developing a personal relationship with God	
	How do you have a personal relationship with God?
	What is the difference between knowing about God and Knowing God?
	How can you get to know God?
	How can we know God's will? Isn't he mysterious and unknowable
	How can I hear God's voice?
	What does it mean to have communion with God?
	What the difference between belief and faith?
	How does prayer work? What are some best practices?
	What is fervent prayer?
	How can I be lead by the spirit?
	What does it mean to put your trust in Him?
	How do I avoid a spirit of fear?
Spiritual Warfare	
	Is Satan / The devil real? Is there an active evil force at work?
	What are his tactics?
	How to i resiet the devil?
	What is the armour of God? How do i put it on?
	What authority do I have? How do I use it?
	What is the sword of the spirit? and how do i use it?
	How do Jesus stripes heal us?
	What does it mean to be "clothed in righteousness"?
	What does it mean to "do the works that Jesus did"?
	What does it mean to "Speak to your mountain"?
	WHy do we "ask in Jeuss name"?
	What does it mean to "Believe when you pray"?
	What signs will follow "those who believe"?

Be led By the Spirit	
	What does the holy spirit do in me
	How can I be led by the spirit
	How can I hear its' voice
	What is Faith? Where does it come from?
	What is Grace? How do I receive it?
	How does flesh war with the spirit?
	What power doe the holy spirit have?