

MY GOD IN MOTION...

# Works Are Evidence of Salvation! ?

*“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26*

Virtual Home Group Bible Study

02-19-2025

# Agenda

- Purpose & Opening
- Topic: What, Why, How, When
- Resources
- Discussion
- Feedback
- Future Topics
- Closing & 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 this opportunity

Give me Words to deliver Your message

Give us Eyes to See all 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 people 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: Good Works Are Evidence Of Salvation! ?

Why:

- Each of you is on a journey.
- As long as you remain focused on your own self and your earthly life, I can not help you reach your potential. Life has hardened your heart.
- As soon as you recognize My work on the cross, and embrace what I have done for you, it opens the door to my influence in you and I can save you.
- The more you yield to Me and welcome My help, the more we can undo the mess that has been built by generations living in a fallen world.
- When you see my love flowing through you in a stream of good works you will begin to see and become the person I had in mind when I formed you in your mother's womb.
- When enough of you are manifesting my love in your own networks, it will tip the scale for the entire kingdom.

(from journalling 2/13)

Approach: What, Why, How, When

# Choosing Separation From God Is Death

## Romans 8:5-6

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

## Ephesians 2:1-3

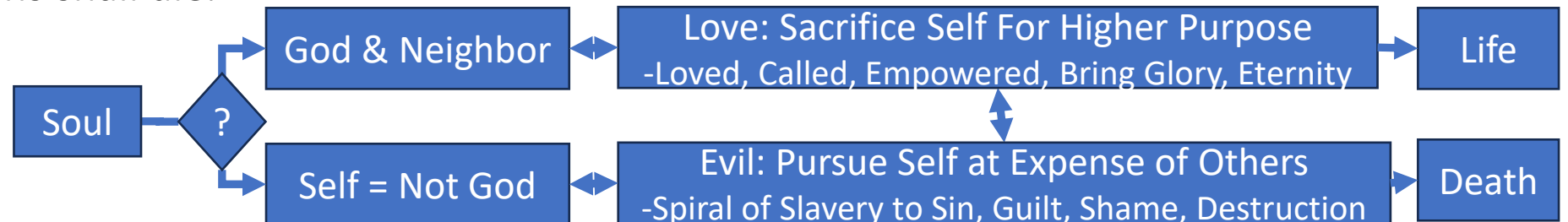
“And **you** He made alive, who **were dead in trespasses and sins**, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

## Romans 6:23:

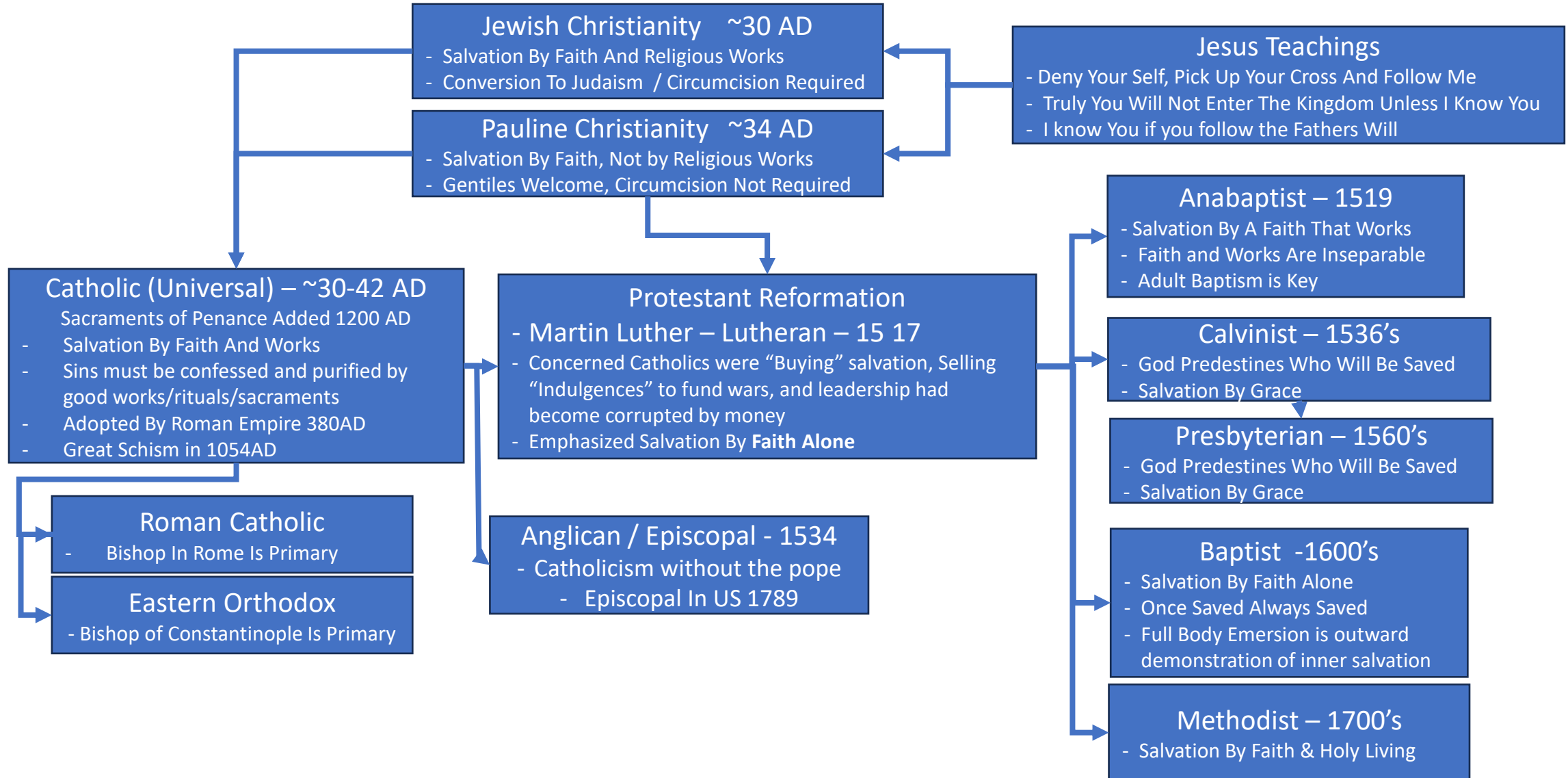
"The wages of sin is death

## Ezekiel 18:4

“The soul who sins shall die.”



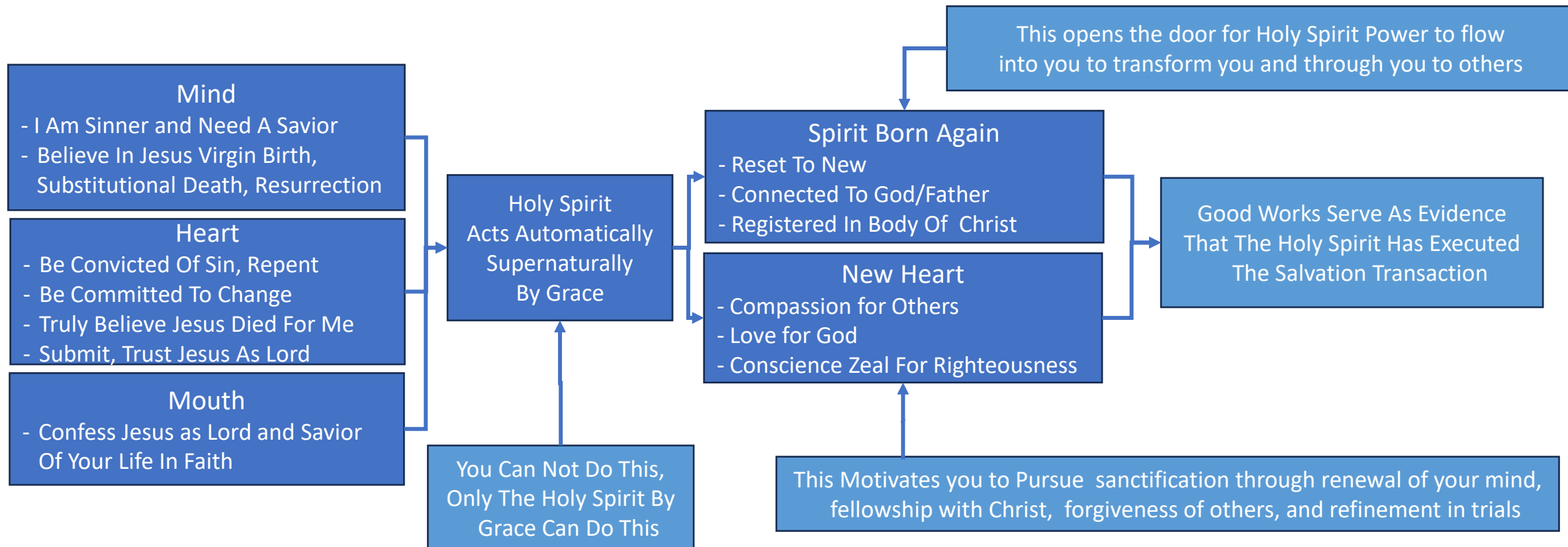
# Mechanics Of Salvation Has Divided Christianity



# Good Works Are Evidence Of Salvation!

## Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.



# You ARE Saved By Grace Through Faith

## Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

### Intended Point:

- Salvation is not of YOUR doing, You must submit to Jesus in Faith and then God will execute His part of the process as an undeserved gift via Grace
- You can not follow God's rules / commandments and get into heaven
  - We were born with a flawed nature and are not capable of following God's rules
  - Only Jesus could follow the rules and be innocent
- We are all sinners and have each earned a sentence in Hell
  - "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life
- We Can Not offset our flaws and earn heaven by works (Good Works or Religious Rituals)
  - Hey Judge, I know I robbed the bank and killed the teller, but look at the good things I have done since...
  - Hey God, Look how holy I am, I have gone to church every day and prayed 3 times a day for 50 years
- There is nothing your can do to save yourself, You need Jesus
  - He is the only way back to the Father.
- You ARE entirely dependent on God's Mercy, and Jesus work on the cross



# Are We Saved By Faith Alone?

## James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

## James 2:20-24

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

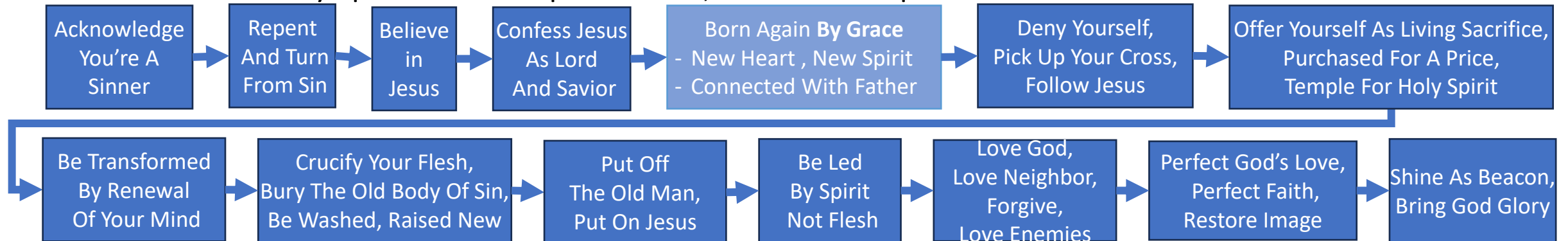
Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

You see then that a **man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**

## James 2:26

For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."



# What Did Jesus Say Directly About Salvation?

John 3:3

"No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again" (Repent, Confess Jesus As Lord)

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, but those who lose their life for my sake will find it"

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Philippians 3:10

"...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,"

Message: Knowing He Is Lord Is Not Enough. You Must Submit and Make Him Lord

Repent and Turn From Sin, Submit to Jesus As Lord, Deny Your Self- Lose Your Life For His Sake, Love God, Love Neighbors, Forgive and Even Love Enemies, Know Jesus by Fellowship With His Suffering For Others

# Put Your Trust In Jesus And It Will Come

## Romans 10:9-10

"That if you **confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you **will be** saved".

## Acts 16:31

"So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you **will be** saved, you and your household'".

## Ephesians 1:13-14

"In Him you also **trusted**, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of **promise**, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

### Gospel

- Man was made in Gods Image
- Adam Corrupted the image by self centered sin
- You inherited flawed nature, and Need a Savior
- God Loves You, Sent His Son
- Jesus Suffered and Died For Your Sins
- He Will Forgive Your Sins and Grant Eternal Life If you Repent, Turn From Sin and make Him Lord
- He will move in and restore the original image

### You Execute In Faith

- Repent, Turn From Sin
- Believe God Raised Jesus From Dead
- Confess Jesus As Lord Of Your Life

Do You Need Other Religions Rituals?

Do You Need Good Works?

Is It Enough Just To Be A Good Person?

### God Delivers Salvation By Grace

- Holy Spirit Renews Spirit
- Born again
- Forgiven / Reconnected With Father
- Member Body Of Christ
- Holy Spirit Flows In
- New Heart:
  - Compassion
  - Love God

### Set Up For Success

- Renewal
- Sanctification
- Regeneration
- Good Works
- Treasures In Heaven

If You Have  
"Saving Faith"

# We Have Good Works To Do

## Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"

## Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



# Resources

# Discussion

## This Topic

- Questions?
- Clarification?
- Practical Experiences?
  - Struggles / Barriers
  - Strategies to Overcome
  - Success / Lesson Learned

## Other Topics/Questions?

# Discussion

Explanation of Romans 6:23

This To “ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- Qu
- Cla God is a just God and He demands Justice  
He gave us rules to guide us
- Pra If we break the rules, there are consequences  
The wages of sin are death – You earn death by your sin
  - 
  - For parking tickets, the consequence/wages are fines
  - Someone must pay the fine to clear your name

Other - We have sinned, We have earned eternity in hell  
Jesus paid the fine for our sins with stripes on his back  
If we submit and make Him our Lord, His blood covers our sin and pays the wages of sin

Q: What is the deal with Judaism and the 613 rules, why do they choose not to embrace Jesus and His teachings? Do they miss out on salvation by Faith?

A: The Leaders of the Jewish community did not recognize Jesus as their messiah, their Christ.

One of the key drivers was their preconceived notion that the messiah would be a political conquering king like Moses who would deliver them from Roman occupation. Jesus told them He is ushering in a different kind of kingdom, a spiritual kingdom, and He was conquering the evil that was working in them so they could have eternal life with Him. They were convinced He was not the conquering king that was promised.

-The Sadducees were wealthy political leaders. They were hard core Torah scholars but did not believe in the afterlife. Jesus promised people eternal life after death. They were not having it. The crowds following Jesus put their political power and wealth at risk if the Romans decided to clamp down.

- The Pharisees were a competing group who insisted people strictly follow extensive oral tradition as well as the Torah. Jesus told them they were making a mess administering man made laws. They took offense and considered Him a great threat to their position of power.

-None of them could wrap their head around a rabbi they had trained being God in the flesh so they had Him killed.

-They claim someone broke into the guarded tomb and stole Jesus dead body, so he was never resurrected.

-Judaism today remains a works-based religion: Conform to the rules and perform the rituals so you are aligned with God and get blessings in this life and/or the next.

Only the Holy Spirit can reveal to you that Jesus Is The Christ, The promised messiah from Isaiah 53 who suffered and died for the sins of the world, and provides a path to everlasting life.

-The spirit revealed this to Joseph and Mary, Zacharias and Elizabeth, and John The Baptist

-Simon was renamed Peter when He revealed that He understood “The Rock” of that revelation

-Ask the Lord for revelation, review the prophecies, review how they were fulfilled, and you will see for yourself that Jesus is the Christ, and you can build your life on that rock.



Dis

Q: What About Purgatory?

A: Purgatory is not specifically described in the bible.

Th

Purgatory is the Catholic solution to a works-based faith induced conundrum.

- Heaven is perfect, nothing impure can enter heaven. (Rev 21:27)
- Humans have a flawed inner nature and sinful tendencies incompatible with heaven.
- We are accountable for our sinful actions and will pay the price for every last one (Luke 12:59)
- Catholics offer the sacrament of penance to partially address this
  - We must Confess our sins, Repent, and be absolved by a priest.
  - The priest assigns works to offset the sin... Prayers, fasting, acts of charity, etc.
  - When we suffer in Jesus name, we join in Christ's suffering on the cross
- We must learn from mistakes, suffer consequences, correct our ways and be sanctified.
- If we do not get complete sanctification in this life, how can you get into heaven?
- Purification has to happen somewhere after we leave here, and before we settle into heaven, so Purgatory is their solution.

O

Catholic Catechism defines purgatory as a place of purification where souls who have been saved by faith go after they pass from this life to complete the job of sanctification. They work through any remaining sinful tendencies in their soul, suffer any temporary consequences there, so they can achieve the holiness necessary to enter the permanent joy of heaven.

Q: If we are saved by Grace through Faith, and not religious works, is this works based model correct?

# Dis

Q: What Did Swedenborg discover about the space between Life here and Heaven? Isn't that a type of purgatory.

Background:

- Swedenborg was a very distinguished scientist in the 1700's
- He was granted a decades long "Near Death" type Spiritual Experience
- He investigated and documented the spiritual processes in heaven and how they interact with us here on earth.
- Explored many aspects of heaven, Interviewed thousands of folks while there.
- Published thousands of pages of detailed documentation and analysis

Some Key Points re: Afterlife

- 3 Heavens, each with a focus: Doing What is Right, Loving Neighbor, Loving God
- 3 Hells, opposite to each heaven: Creating Chaos, Harming Others, Countering God
- Initial landing place is "World Of Spirits" - Length of stay and activities depends on person
  - Discover your innermost love, Shed the outer layers of baggage
- Your inner love will take you to a perfect heaven or hell.
  - Evil in your heart will burn uncomfortably in the love of heaven, you may want to avoid
  - Falsity in your mind will make you blind in heavens' light, you may prefer to see in dim light
- You will be matched with kindred spirits for eternity
  - Could be awesome, or ugly depending on your true inner nature
- You have the rest of your life to nurture your nature and determine your eternity

# Summary:

- Teachings on being “Saved By Faith Alone” is a source of great confusion.
- Truth: We ARE saved by Grace Through Faith – It is not something we can do or earn.
  - Only the Holy Spirit can execute The “Born Again” transaction in the Heavens, Your Spirit, and Your Heart
  - It is triggered when you understand you are a sinner and need a savior and decide to:
    - **Repent** and turn from Sin to be closer to God
    - **Believe** God loves you and sent His son. Jesus died to pay the price for your sins and was resurrected to be your savior.
    - **Confess** Jesus as Your Lord and Savior in Faith
  - Salvation does not come from religious rituals or compliance with religious rules, ex: Circumcision or 613 laws.
  - We Can Do Nothing To “Earn/Buy” salvation – It Is A Free Gift Of God’s Mercy and Grace
- You Can Tell When The “Born Again” Transaction Has Happened
  - New Heart Of Flesh: Compassion for others, Desire To Be Helpful and Do Good Works
  - Love God and Righteousness: Want To Live a life Worthy of the Price He Paid, Avoid Sin, Serve Him
  - Holy Spirit Working In You: Conviction, Fruits of Spirit Emerging: Love, Patience, Goodness, Faith, etc
- Good Works Are Critical To Our Spiritual Development – Sanctification, Readiness For Heaven
  - They ARE Evidence that we have Achieved a “Saving Faith” – A Faith That Works
  - Deep Appreciation For Jesus’ Love and Sacrifice should propel us to Follow Him
  - Following Him requires us to yield our own interests and focus on our higher purpose
  - God’s love is perfected through us as we humble ourselves, sacrifice our interests, and serve others.
  - Jesus will know us at the pearly gates when we have been following Him and doing the Fathers will

# Call To Action: Continue Your Journey

Repent, Turn From Sin

Believe In Jesus

Submit and Make Him Lord

Deny your Self, Pick Up Your Cross, Follow Jesus

Stand In Your New Identity – Born Again Child of God, Innocent and Holy

Pursue Your New Purpose – Glorify God In All You Do, Shine

Put Off The Old Man, Put On Jesus

Love God, Love Your Neighbor

Forgive

Do The Good Works Set Before You

Reflect, Repent, Renew, Regenerate

# 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
  - ✓ Do quick intro when new folks so they get familiar
  - ✓ Host log in at 6:45 so others can get settled online and start on time
- What could be better: Suggestions to consider
  - ✓ Me: Send Reminder Text Early, and the 30 min before
  - ✓ Me: Set dog up for success to avoid distraction
  - ✓ Me: Mute participants during presentation to improve sound quality

# Future Topics

Candidate topic for next week:

**Who Was Emanuel Swedenborg**

Recent Activity / Potential Topics:

- Gratitude Defeats Anxiety
- Deny Your Life To The Point Of Death!
- Act in Faith to Make Room For Grace!
- 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!
- Yield Your Life To Find It – His Will, Not Yours

Any hot topics on your mind?

- How to stand in Faith in end times
- What does the new heaven/new earth mean?
- What are the steps to discernment

**Next Session:  
Wed 2/26**

# 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 bright beacon in this dark world.
- We do all things 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

# “My God In Motion” Resources

Website: <https://mygodinmotion.org/>

-[Blog](#)

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MyGodInMotion>

[Playlists:](#)

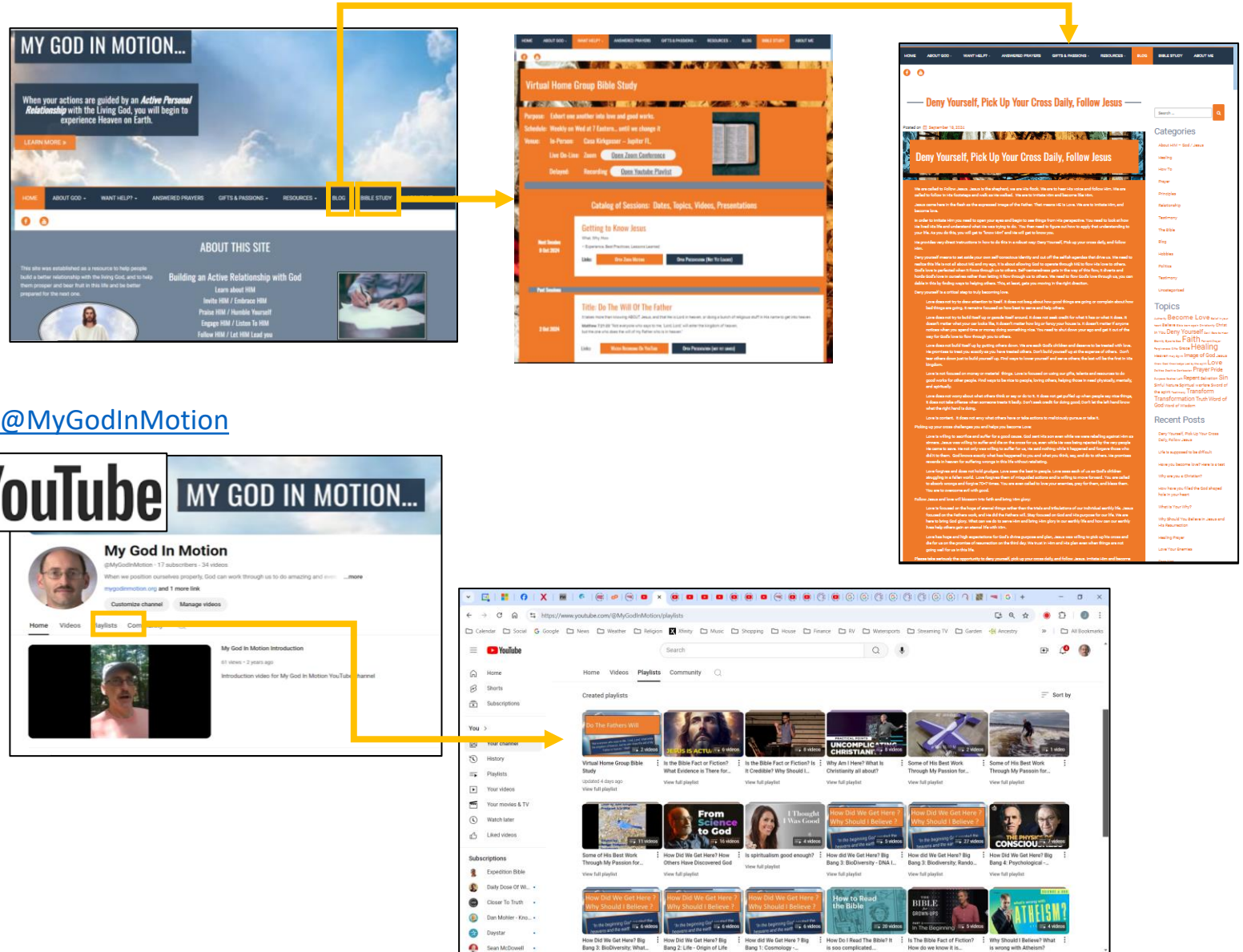
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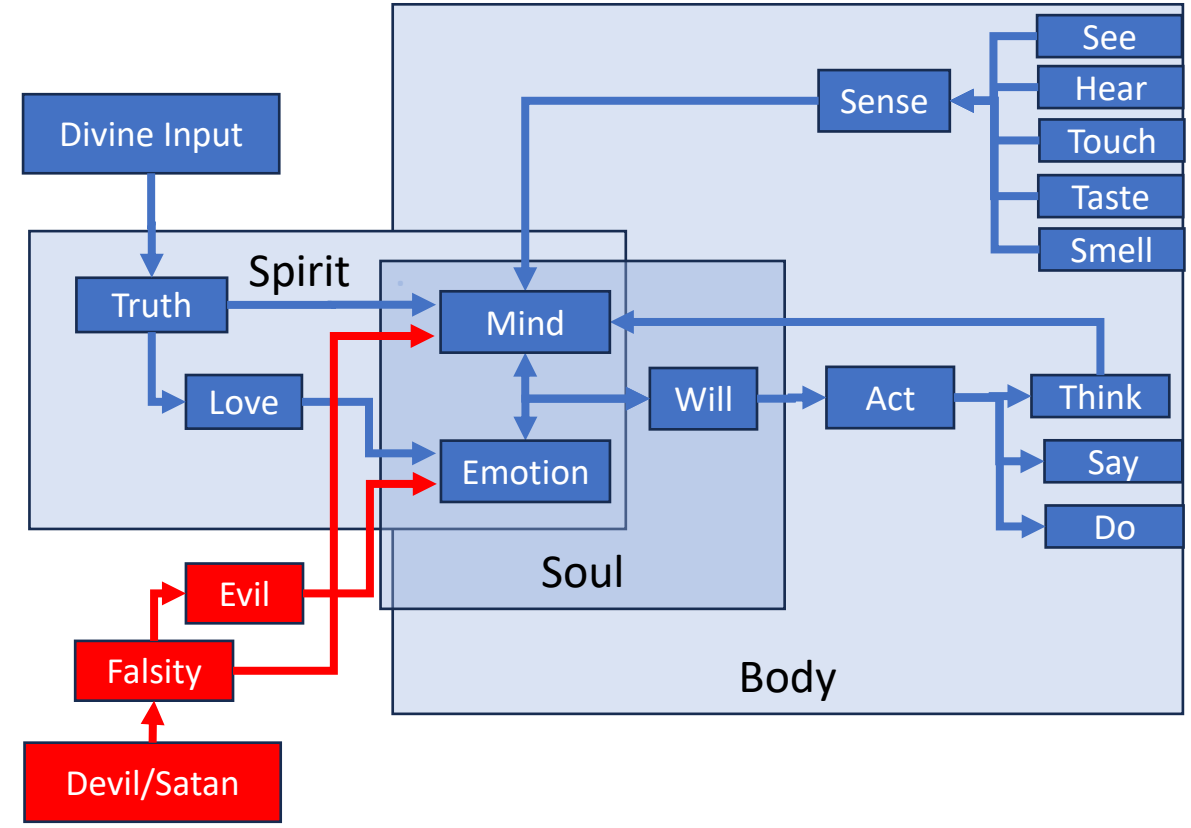
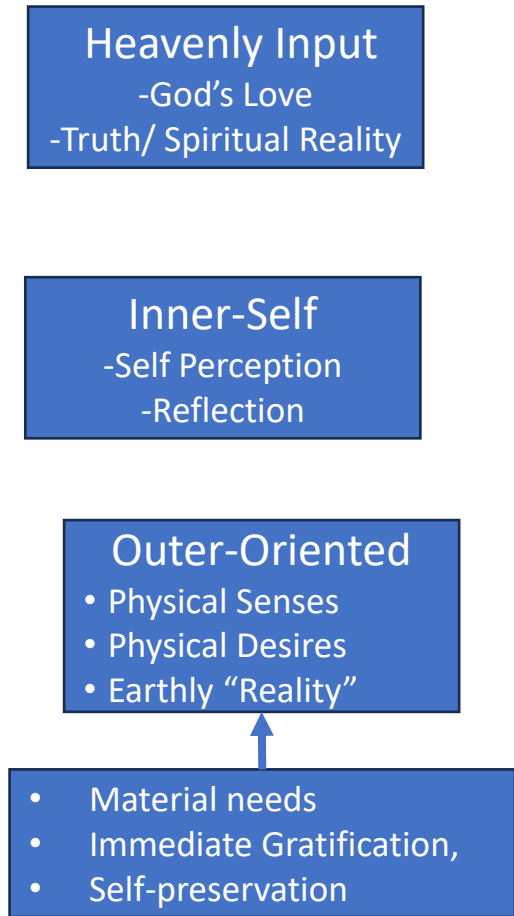
[Lessons Learned](#)

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# We All Operate In Faith

## Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

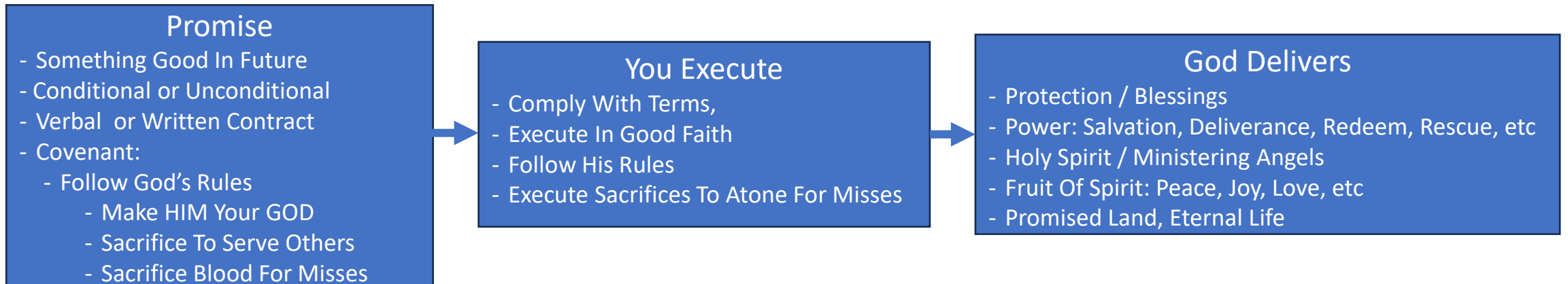
- Faith = Belief in a promise, strong enough to act and expect results
- Act = Think, Say, Do
- Promise = Something in the future you can not yet see

Examples:

Lawn service: You mow a lawn in faith on the promise they will pay you.

College: You pay, attend, do work in faith on promise of a diploma.

Brakes: You go down steep hills with your car in Faith that the brakes will work at the bottom.



# But It Is Not About Religious Works

## Galatians 2:15-16

We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for **by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**

-Released From Slavery  
-Left Enemies Behind In Red Sea  
-Wandered In Wilderness  
-Rebelled  
-God offers deal:  
- Follow rules  
- God will protect  
- Violate and earn Death

The Law  
(613 Rules)  
(248 Do's / 365 Don'ts)  
-Do Be Circumcised  
-Don't Worship Idols

So Many Rules  
No Natural  
Human Can Fully  
Comply

Must Sacrifice  
Blood To  
Temporarily Atone  
For Deviation

Ceremony Involves  
Pair Of Perfect Goats.  
-One Killed (Scapegoat)  
-Blood Put on Other and set free  
-Body roasted and eaten

Jesus Satisfied All  
The Rules as A  
Divine Human  
- There Was no Sin  
Found In Him

Animals Were  
Interim and  
Recurring  
- Jesus Was One and  
Final

Jesus was the  
innocent lamb  
sacrificed for Our Sin.  
- His blood covers us so  
we are set free