

Larry & Aida Watlington

Simplicity of The Word

www.simplicityoftheword.com

SOTW724@gmail.com



He That has an Ear, Let Him Hear, What the Spirit Says to the Churches

MANAGING VOIDS

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the spirit.

Ephesians 5:18



THE BIBLE'S THESIS STATEMENT

(GENESIS 1:1-4)

- In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

RECOGNIZING VOIDS

We have been conditioned to think in terms of "opposites"

Man's Logic	Godly Logic
Dark is the opposite of Light	Dark is the absence of Light
Cold is the opposite of Heat	Cold is the absence of Heat
Hate is the opposite of Love	Hate is the absence of Love
Sin is the opposite of Obedience	Sin is the absence of Obedience

- The events of creation (Gen 1) can represent the pattern of our lives
 - In the Beginning – God Created (Believed)... and gave the earth "form"
 - Lust of the eyes, the flesh and pride of life cause us to lose our form (1John 2:16)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (*bring something into existence*)

En el principio Dios creó los cielos y la tierra. (*to have a firm or wholehearted religious conviction*)

We become empty or have "voids"

HOW ARE YOU BEING FILLED?

- God asks Adam two powerful questions in Genesis 3
 - *“Where Art Thou? And ... Who told you you were naked?”*
- Adam did not know a void existed until Satan planted the thought in his mind
 - Often we allow perceived voids are placed in our minds by our environment

The Unclean Spirit – Matthew 12:43-45

- The person has an unclean spirit
- Something caused the spirit to leave the person
- The person for a moment in time is clean – but empty
- The unclean spirit returns to the person more wicked
- The end of the person is worse than the beginning

Focus on what you are being “Delivered To” not just “Delivered From”

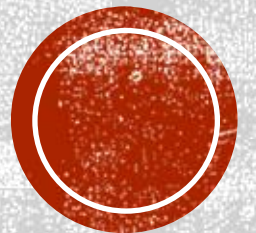
BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be **filled**. Matt 5:6
- Then Jesus, being **filled** with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Luke 4:1
- And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4
- But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan **filled** your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? Acts 5:3
- And the disciples were **filled** with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:52
- And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be **filled** with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18
- Being **filled** with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Phil 1:11



THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST...

WHAT IT IS



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

- We Must Recognize What The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Is Before We Can Determine If It Is Being Distorted By False Teachers
- It Is Not – A Genre Of Music -- A Religious Denomination – A Style Of Worship
- The Word “**Gospel**” Means: *“A Thing That Is Absolutely True”*.
- This Is The **Birth – Life – Death – Resurrection** - And **Return** Of Jesus Christ!
- Our View And Understanding Of The Gospel Can Be Distorted By False Teaching And Doctrine
 - Jesus Was **Born** Of A Virgin Who Was Overshadowed By The Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35)
 - Jesus, Our High Priest **Lived** A Sinless Life (Hebrew 4:15)
 - Jesus **Died** A Real Death (John 19:33-34)
 - Jesus Defeated The Power Of Death By Being **Resurrected** from the died (1 Corinth 15:54-56)
 - Jesus Will **Return!** (1 & 2 Thessalonians)

The True Gospel will shield us from the World's Deception (*Revelations 13*)

THE GOSPEL ... THE PERFECT PATTERN

- The **Birth – Life – Death – Resurrection - And Return** Of Jesus Christ!
- Our View And Understanding Of The Gospel Is The Perfect Template For Living And Maturing As A Disciple of Jesus Christ.

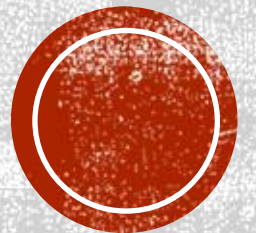
<i>The Gospel through Jesus</i>	The Gospel in Us
<i>Jesus was born of a Virgin who was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35)</i>	We are reborn by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-5)
<i>Jesus, our High Priest lived a sinless life (Hebrew 4:15)</i>	Our Sins covered and iniquities forgiven (Romans 4:6-8)
<i>Jesus died a real death (John 19:33-34)</i>	We are crucified with Christ (Romans 6:1-6)
<i>Jesus defeated the power of death by being resurrected (1 Corinth 15:54-56)</i>	Being Dead with Christ, we live (Romans 6:7-23)
<i>Jesus Will Return! (1 & 2 Thessalonians)</i>	We WILL Reign with Christ (Rev 20:4-6)

Paul the Apostle gives explicit warnings of being corrupted from the Simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
(2 Corinth 11:3-4)



THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST...

WHY WE NEED IT



SIN – WHY WE NEED THE GOSPEL

Psalms 32:5 “I Acknowledged My Sin To You And Did Not Cover Up My Iniquity. I Said, ‘I Will Confess My Transgressions To The LORD.”

- Sin – To Miss The Mark (Sin Nature). Sin Is The General Term For Anything That “Falls Short Of The Glory Of God” (Romans 3:23).
 - The Sin Nature Leads To Trespassing
- Trespass – To Fall Away Or To Cross The Line Intentionally Or Unintentionally
- Transgressions – Presumptuous Sin Or To Choose To Intentionally Disobey
 - Transgression Is Willful Trespassing.
- Iniquity – A Premeditated Choice; To Continue in Sin Without Repentance

Read Psalms 51: 1-13

TRESPASSES - TRANSGRESSIONS – INIQUITIES

The Progressive Nature of Sin Analogy

My Property



My Neighbor's Fruit Tree



My Neighbor's Property



My Neighbor's Fence

- **The Sin Nature** is driven by **Lust** of the Eyes, **Lust** of the Flesh, **Pride** of Life.
- **Trespass** – To cross the line intentionally or unintentionally (*Leviticus 6; Matthew 6:13-15*)
- **Transgression** – The choice to intentionally disobey or to willfully trespass (*Psalms 51:1-3*)
- **Iniquity** - A premeditated choice to continue in sin without repentance (*Psalms 51:2; Romans 6:19; Luke 13:25-27*)

SIN DRAWS AWAY AND ENTICES

JAMES 1:12-16



- Desires Are Rooted In The **Heart**
- Motives Are Generated In The **Mind**
- Actions Are Carried Out With The **Body Or Our Strength**
- The Impacts Of These Three Determine The Condition Of Our **Soul**

Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. (Psalms 37:4)

DRAWN AWAY AND ENTICED

- This Makes Mark 12:30 Even More Powerful *“And Thou Shalt Love The Lord Thy God With All Thy **Heart**, And With All Thy **Soul**, And With All Thy **Mind**, And With All Thy **Strength**.*
- If We Love God With...
 - **Our Heart** *(Keep Thy Heart With All Diligence; For Out Of It Are The Issues Of Life. Proverbs 4:23)*
 - **Our Mind** *(Be Not Conformed To This World: But Be Ye Transformed By The **Renewing** Of Your Mind, That Ye May Prove What Is That Good, And Acceptable, And Perfect, Will Of God. Romans 12:2)*
 - **Our Strength** *(That Ye Might Walk Worthy Of The Lord Unto All Pleasing, Being Fruitful In Every Good Work, And Increasing In The Knowledge Of God; Strengthened With All Might, According To His Glorious Power, Unto All Patience And Longsuffering With Joyfulness (Col 1:10-11)*

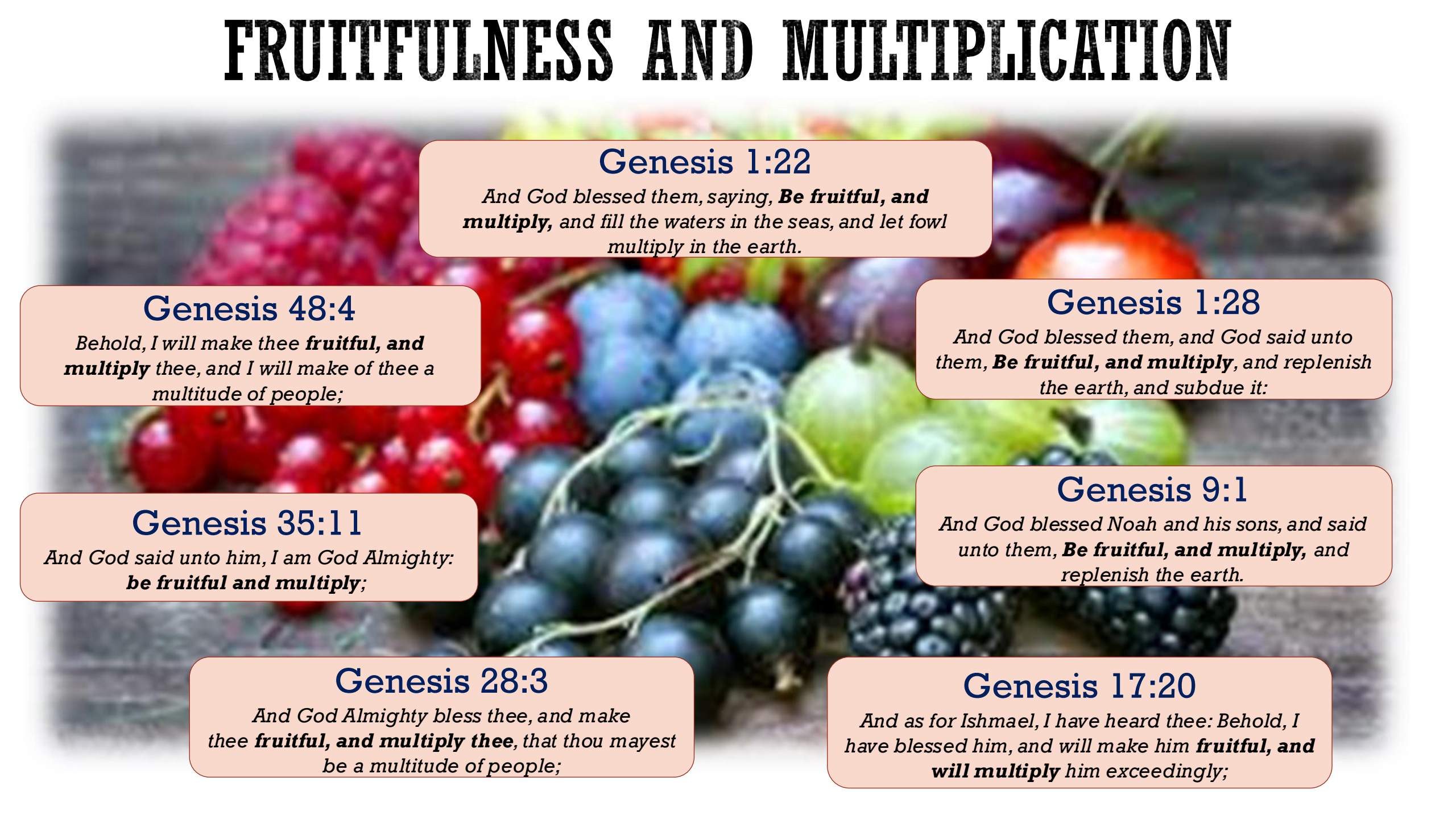
What are the Desires, Motives and Actions

Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, Pride of Life (1 John 2:16)



FRUITFULNESS AND MULTIPLICATION

FRUITFULNESS AND MULTIPLICATION



Genesis 1:22

*And God blessed them, saying, **Be fruitful, and multiply**, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.*

Genesis 48:4

*Behold, I will make thee **fruitful, and multiply** thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people;*

Genesis 1:28

*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply**, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:*

Genesis 35:11

*And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: **be fruitful and multiply**;*

Genesis 9:1

*And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply**, and replenish the earth.*

Genesis 28:3

*And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee **fruitful, and multiply thee**, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;*

Genesis 17:20

*And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him **fruitful, and will multiply** him exceedingly;*

FRUITFULNESS AND MULTIPLICATION

Fruitfulness - A state of being extremely productive, profitable, beneficial

God prunes us so we can bear fruit (John 15:1-2)

Multiplication - The process of repeated addition, replication and replenishing

Nature teaches us that every living thing seeks to replicate itself

Godly Multiplication is Exponential

Linear Multiplication

$$2 * 0 = 0$$

$$2 * 1 = 2$$

$$2 * 2 = 4$$

$$2 * 3 = 6$$

$$2 * 4 = 8$$

$$2 * 5 = 10$$

$$2 * 6 = 12$$

$$2 * 7 = 14$$

$$2 * 8 = 16$$

Exponential Multiplication

$$2^0 (2 * 0) = 0$$

$$2^1 (2 * 1) = 2$$

$$2^2 (2 * 2) = 4$$

$$2^3 (2 * 2 * 2) = 8$$

$$2^4 (2 * 2 * 2 * 2) = 16$$

$$2^5 (2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2) = 32$$

$$2^6 (2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2) = 64$$

$$2^7 (2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2) = 128$$

$$2^8 (2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2) = 256$$

FRUITFULNESS AND MULTIPLICATION

Fruitfulness without **Multiplication** can become very self-serving and unprofitable

“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (2Tim 3:7)

Multiplication without **Fruitfulness** produces a weak crop, less effective seed and no long-term growth

THE OUTCOME

■ Tenets of Fruitfulness

- Christian Education
- Brotherly Kindness
- Exhortation
- Fellowship



■ Tenets of Multiplication

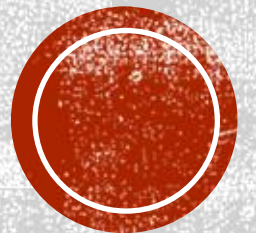
- Evangelism
- Discipleship





THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST...
UNDERGIRDS DISCIPLESHIP

2 PETER 1:1-10



BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE DISCIPLE

2 Peter 1:1-3

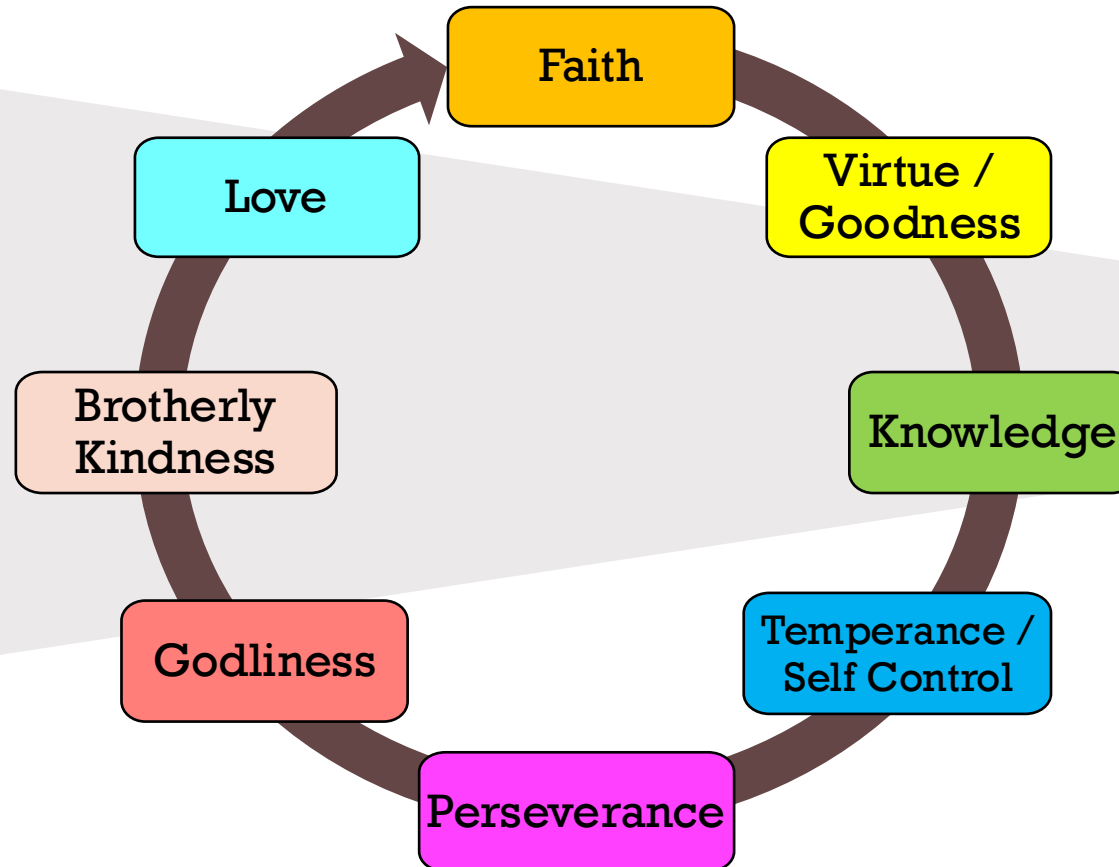
It starts with receiving **Faith** in Jesus Christ our Savior

Obtain **Knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord

God's **Divine Power** provides everything we need to live godly

He promised that we can participate in the **Divine Nature**

2 Peter 1:5-7



2 Peter 1:8-9

Results:
Growing these qualities keep us from becoming **Ineffective** and **Unproductive**

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE “DIVINE NATURE”

Faith - The substance of things hoped for and evidence of things not seen. It is paramount to have our hope grounded in the things of God. Faith is more than just an idle wish or an empty dream. Faith operates hand in hand with our works. **Faith = Belief + Obedience.** (*Hebrew 11:1, James 2:14-20*)

Virtue - The Greek definition for Virtue is “Moral excellence or perfection”. However, I like the Hebrew definition “strength, power, might (especially warlike), ability, efficiency, wealth, force, army”. Growing in diligence is a war in the mind and spirit. It is the preparation required for battle! (*Philippians 4:8*)

Knowledge - Proverbs 12:1 says that “*whoso loves instruction loves knowledge: but he that hates reproof is brutish.*” This leads to the question, are we teachable, can we follow instructions? Or are we filled with proud. (*Proverbs 18:15; 12:1, Psalms 119:66*)

Temperance - The ability to possess and exhibit self-control or self-restraint. We NEED the Holy Spirit to accomplish this in our lives. Even though we were created with emotions, it does not give us a free pass to live emotional. Replace emotional statements like “*this sucks, I hate doing, I don’t like*” with spirit-filled ones like “*I AM, I Can, I Will*”. (*Galatians 5:22-25, 1 Corinthians 15:58*)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE “DIVINE NATURE”

Patience - Jesus explained the parable of the sower to his disciples in Luke chapter 8, he makes a profound statement in verse 15. “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, **and bring forth fruit with patience.**” (*James 1:2-8, Luke 8:10-15*)

Godliness – Having a Mind to do God’s will. In the letter that the Apostle Paul writes to Timothy, he gives ample instructions on “godliness”. This word is repeated nine times in this short epistle, four times in the chapter 6 alone! (*1 Timothy 3:13; 4:8; 6:1-11*)

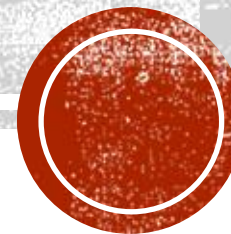
Brotherly Kindness - Brotherly kindness is an attribute that is found throughout the Bible. David showed kindness to Saul and Jonathan’s son, Boaz to Ruth and Naomi, the people on the island of Melita to Paul and the list goes on... It is a condition of the heart. (*Col 3:11-12, 2 Corinth 6:1-10*)

Love - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (*John 3:16*)

Growing these qualities keep us from becoming **Ineffective** and **Unproductive**
(*2 Peter 1:8-9*)



THE PATTERN OF CREATION



THE PATTERN OF CREATION (GEN 1:3-13)

God created an ecosystem to support natural Fruitfulness and Multiplication . This provides a great example of how we should provide the ecosystem to support spiritual Fruitfulness and Multiplication.

Day	Natural Creation	Natural Purpose	Spiritual Application
1 st	Light created and seperated from darkness	Jesus (not the sun) illuminates and light/darkness divided (order/chaos) 1 st Sanctification (External)	Jesus revealed and brings order into our lives Seperates us from the world's chaos (Psalm 4:3, John 17:16-18)
2 nd	Seperated the sky and water	The waters divided from the waters by the "Firmament" 2 nd Sanctification (Internal/The heart)	Seperation of the thoughts of our heart (Gen 5:5-6, Heb 4:12)
3 rd	Land and Sea, grass and vegetation	Seperated the dry land from the oceans and established a firm foundation with grass and vegetation. The seed is "in itself" or self contained 3 rd Sanctification (Internal/The mind)	Prepare our mind/attitude us for the work The Word is our firm foundation that is self-pollinating. It undergirds our work
4 th	Sun, Moon and Stars	The day and night divided. Night is a necessary component in God's ecosystem. (not confused with light and darkness) The rotation of day/night and seasons impact the ecosystem 4 th Sanctification (Internal/Governance)	Gods gives us the assurance that He has rule or governace over every situation we encounter in life. For everything there is a season and a pattern. (Eccl 3, Psalm 1:3, Matt 13:3-9)
5 th	Sea Life and Birds	Sea life maintain the balance of aquatic ecosystems and the food cycle. Birds pollinate, re-seed, sanitize and control pest. 1 st command to be "Fruitful and Multiply" , the seed is not in itself	Recognize the people God place in our lives for spiritual health and balance such as ministers (Eph 4:11) They pollinate, re-seed us with the Word and clean up erroneous thinking as we mature and disciple
6 th	Land Animals and creeping things	Insects (creeping things) are a primary food source for many animals and critical to the balance of the ecosystem. Land animals support plant life, food cycles, and human existence 2 nd command to be "Fruitful and Multiply"	We are equipped to employ and deploy the core tenets of: Fruitfulness (Christian Education, Brotherly Kindness Exhortation, Fellowship) and Multiplication (Evangelism and Discipleship)
6 th	Man created in God's image	Blessed by God and given dominion with parameters (every living thing.) 3 rd command to be "Fruitful and Multiply"	Ensure we are formed in the correct Image of God, not of other men. Receive God's blessing and recognize the boundary of our spiritual dominion in Christ

THE 1ST DAY (GEN 1:3-5)

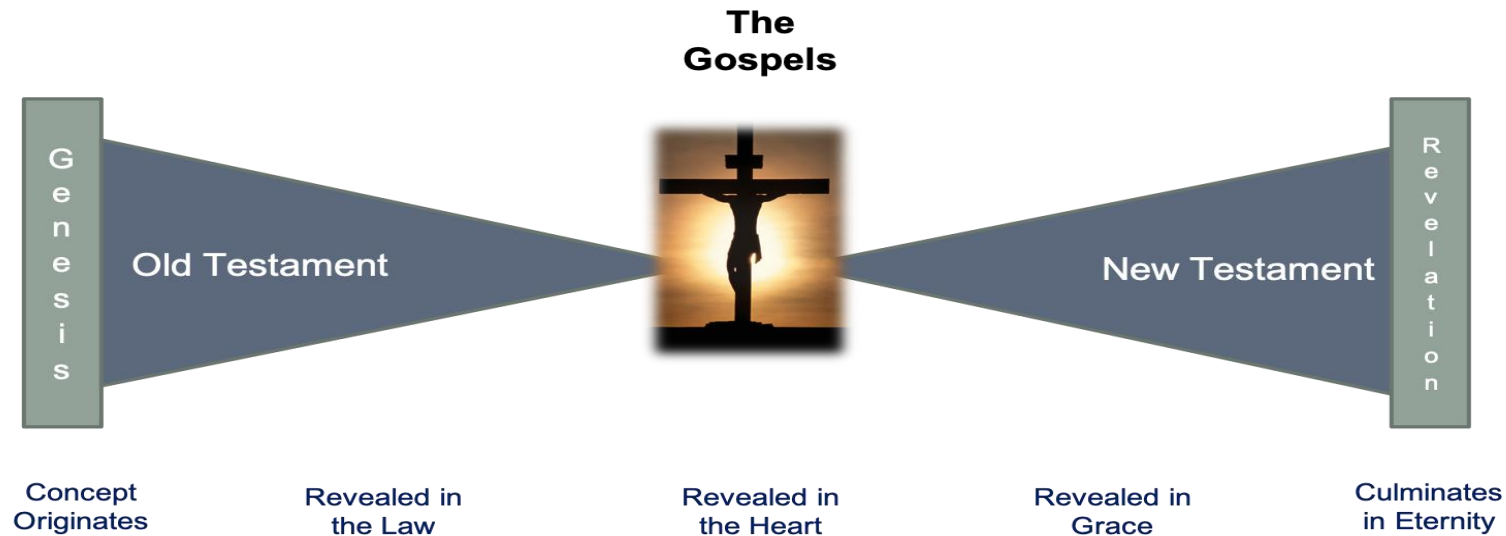
1ST SANCTIFICATION (EXTERNAL)

- **Natural Creation** - Light created and darkness separated
- **Natural Purpose** - Jesus (not the sun) illuminates and light/darkness divided (order from chaos)
- **Spiritual Application**
 - 1st Sanctification – Salvation sets us apart for the Sin of the world through Jesus
 - Separates us from the world's chaos (Psalm 4:3, John 17:16-18)
 - Jesus, the light of the world is revealed and brings order into our lives
 - The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up (Matt 4:16)
 - Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)
 - "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." (John 1:4-5)

This is the beginning of the first spirit-filled "day" of the rest of our lives

LEARNING TO LEARN THE SCRIPTURES

- Approach Biblical teachings from three perspectives:
 - Historical Perspective – The Setting
 - Spiritual Perspective – Jesus and the Cross
 - Personal Perspective – How to Apply it to your Life



Perspectives established in Genesis repeat and builds throughout the scriptures and culminates in the Revelation