

Good afternoon to everyone,

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I am delighted to welcome you back to our Monday night Bible Study Series.

Tonight marks the seventh session of our series titled

"The Fundamentals of our Faith."

During our initial class, we focused our attention on

"The Doctrine of God,"

we explored, though not exhaustively, the subject matter of

The Divine Names, Nature and Attributes of God.

The Doctrine of the Divine Trinity

We then partook in a three-part series called

The Covenant of Redemption.

In that study, we explored the various covenants that God entered with mankind.

We delved into the initial conditional covenant that God made with Adam,

followed by the covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and King David.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we discovered how all these Old Testament covenants were interconnected with the everlasting covenant.

Thus, we saw how they all pointed forward to their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ and in the promise of the New Covenant.

It was fascinating to learn that the New Covenant was predestined by God's foreknowledge within the divine counsels of the Godhead before the foundation of the world.

In tonight's study, we shall endeavor to observe and examine the distinction between

"the seen world" and "the unseen world."

We shall also be exploring into the realm of the angelic beings.

We shall make it our aim to distinguish between **"Angels"** and **"fallen angels"**

and in the process, we shall also attempt to understand

"Satan's role, character, and ultimate goal."

Therefore, before we begin our study tonight let us ask for Divine help, that we might be given Divine grace. If you would please bow your heads and pray with me.

As we have noted, we have been progressively building our theology one upon another in what is known as systematic theology.

What is Systematic Theology?

It is to study of the Christian doctrine in an arranged, orderly, and coherent method.

It is to observe the unity of the Bible as a whole, rightly interpreting and verifying the truth and absolute reliability of the scriptures by the authority of the scriptures themselves.

Let us be reminded that **the source of all true knowledge is found** _____?

In our study, we started with "The Doctrine of God." It's important to remember that earlier we discovered that God's word serves as the ultimate standard for **all absolute truth**.

If we are to gain a true and proper knowledge of the truth, we must first start with God.

Let us recall that we are born deprived of God's truth, therefore **the Truth** must be imparted to us.

Thus, the only way to know the truth is to evaluate God's perception of it.

Meaning, that we must first see and interpret all things through the lens of God's perspective.

Before we can ever begin to study "the doctrine of angels" or "the doctrine of demonology" we must find their origin and description from God alone.

For God stands **outside of** and **apart from** His creation.

The purpose of these classes is to carefully examine and understand divine truth; as it is revealed in the scriptures so that we might be established and firmly planted in the truth.

This is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit, **"For He will guide you into all truth."** —John 16:13

If we struggle to comprehend something in the scriptures, it indicates a lack of understanding **"on our part"** rather than any **"lack on God's part"** —Matthew 15:16.

"When God's word contradicts our common sense or surpasses our natural intellect, we should recognize that we are relying too heavily on our own understanding and trying to interpret divine matters using human reasoning" —1 Corinthians 2:11.

Scripture is God's revelation of Himself, it is from God and about God.

It depicts all that is, was and is to come. It reveals God's truth in His own words.

We, therefore, must submit under God's inherent authoritative word.

Nothing should be ignored, nullified, nor added to it. —Deuteronomy 4:2

We must believe and receive it with a childlike faith, believing that God's truth is in fact—**reality**.

Within the unique work of the Godhead, the Father predetermined to reveal His exact Divine nature in **“the Person of His Son”** co-equal in divinity, value, and power.

The Holy Spirit designed and established the word of God to reveal the truth concerning God’s plan of redemption—for the truth is ***only revealed*** in Jesus Christ.

This is extremely important, especially as we come to this topic of peering into the unseen world.

We must remember that the scriptures were written to reveal ***the reality*** of Jesus Christ. The scriptures testify to Christ’s Deity, they manifest His glory, they describe His majestic power, and they authenticate His ***absolute Authority*** as the Eternal Son of God.

The Holy Spirit has a unique and significant role in enlightening us to the truth of the gospel. Through the gospel, we learn about God's plans and purposes for His Son.

The fundamental purpose of being born again, is to experience true salvation and eternal life. This takes place as we cultivate a rich, deep, genuine, and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. But in order for this to take place we must bring our faith to life and make it a tangible reality within our daily walk with God.

For although God has fully disclosed and made known to us the truth, by the Spirit of truth; we must be willing to walk in harmony with Him ***in the light of that truth***.

The Lord Jesus put it plainly in John 7:17

“It is only when we seek to do the Father's will and not our own that we shall understand the doctrine, that is, how to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts. —Titus 2:12

Divine revelation and light are given to those who are ***surrendered under and submitted to*** the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Our Lord said, **“The pure in heart shall see God”**—Matthew 5:8

This is why Jesus taught in parables.

*What is the definition of a parable?

?

God will hide the truth from those who see no value in Christ and from who’s hearts have grown dull of hearing His life altering word.

See Matthew 13:10-17; Isaiah 66:2

As we have seen from our previous studies,
Jesus Christ came into *the seen world*, to testify to the truth concerning *the unseen world*.

Thus, as we begin our study into this invisible world,
we shall soon see the absolute authority of Jesus Christ extends into this kingdom.

In this mysterious unseen world, dwell a myriad of unseen spirits called— angel’s.

These celestial beings were created by the LORD,
and they exist alongside our visible world.

In the book of Job, 38:4-7 we witness Job struggling with profound questions
concerning the meaning and purpose of pain, suffering, and even death.

In response to Job’s questions,
we get a glimpse into this heavenly realm as the LORD God answers and addresses Job.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know!

Who stretched out the measuring line upon it?

On what was its footing set?

Who laid the cornerstone while the morning *stars sang together*
and *all the angels the sons of God shouted for joy!*”

From these scriptures we can determine that the Lord created the unseen world
along with the host of angelic beings, sometime before He created the earth.
For it is written that the angels *sang* and *shouted with joy at the sight of God’s creation*.

As we have studied previously, the Trinity has always existed.

“From everlasting” there was God.

Since God inhabits eternity, He stands outside of time and space.

Thus, we *cannot determine* when the Lord created the angels or this unseen world.

All we have is the Divine order:

In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth** —Genesis 1:1

See Hebrews 1:1-3

As we unfolded the covenant of redemption:

We saw that Lucifer was created a powerful, intelligent, and beautiful angelic being.

His name means “shining one” “**star of the morning**” “son of the dawn” —Isaiah 14:12

Based upon this description, most believe that Lucifer was created first among the angelic beings.

Lucifer held the position of a guardian; the **anointed cherub who covers** —Ezekiel 28:14

Lucifer was **perfect in all his ways since the day he was created....** Ezekiel 28:15

Lucifer was **the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty** —Ezekiel 28:12

Cherubim are depicted to be majestic angels that surround God’s throne.

Cherubs were to safeguard **the holiness of God.**

Lucifer enjoyed his identity, position, and power **until iniquity was found in him.** —Ezekiel 28:15

Lucifer traded the eternal for the temporal. He coveted God’s crown, throne and glory.

As a result of his rebellion, he lost his exalted position, his identity and his powers are limited.

When comparing Lucifer's fall to that of Adam's, we can observe numerous similarities.

The difference lies in the repercussions of each, and how the consequences affected each realm.

Adam's transgression resulted in _____?

while Lucifer's sin led to the fall of the heavenly realm.

“too much is given much is required”—Luke 12:48

Lucifer had more light and revelation than Adam.

Therefore, the repercussions of Lucifer’s sin and rebellion is irreversible and permanent.

We have lost our **identity in Adam**, we who have been born **into** this world are **of** the world.

We were born in darkness, devoid of light, we believed the lie for there was no truth in us.

We were not physically born children of God but rather are born childing of the flesh.

we were not dead **to** sin but rather dead **in** sin.

We were slaves to sin and under the sway and power of the evil one.

We have lost our **position** with God as a result of Adam’s original sin and our transgressions.

Because of our sins, we were separated from God.

We felt no sense of belonging, we lacked peace and lived without hope and God in this world.

When Adam disobeyed, his sinful nature was passed down to all because

we were born according to his image and likeness, thus we inherited his fallen nature.

This nature draws us toward sin, and as a result, we carry on in sin.

Without the resurrected **power of the Spirit of Christ**, we have no **power** over sin.

See Isaiah 64:6; Job 14:4, Jeremiah 13:23

After Lucifer’s fall, he retained the power and ability to deceive and influence others,
thus, when Lucifer fell, he did not fall alone.

It is written that one-third of the angelic beings were compelled to follow him in his rebellion.
In Revelation 12:3-4 John sees a **fiery red dragon**, and his tail **drew a third of the stars of heaven**
and they were thrown to the earth.

“The Holy Spirit identifies the dragon to none other than
“that serpent of old” “called **the Devil** and **Satan** he was cast to the earth,
and his angels **were cast out with him** —Revelation 12:9

As we have seen from in our previous text in Job, the Holy Spirit refers **angels** to that of **stars**,
thus the correlation depicted here is that one-third of the angelic beings
were drawn by Satan's deception to follow him in his rebellion
and, as a result, were cast out with him.

And thus, we can see from scripture, Lucifer is not alone.

The angles that joined in his revolt have lost their position, and they have lost their identity.

They are fallen and have become demons.

When Paul was addressing the church at Ephesus, he depicted and ascribed these fallen angels
to “rulers” and **“authorities”** of **“principalities,”** The word **principalities** refer to **territory**;
this implies that demons have power over certain— **kingdoms of the earth**. —Matthew 4:8-9

We see this taking place in Daniel 10:13 as an angel is speaking to Daniel—
“the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me, twenty-one days, and behold,
Micheal, one of the chief princes came to help me...”

The illustration is vivid: this prince of darkness has power over the region of Persia.
As mentioned in Daniel 12:1, **Michael** is recognized as an archangel who **is responsible for**
safeguarding and protecting God's people.

One of the names that best describes Lucifer’s fallen character is **“The Devil.”**

The Devil simply means _____ one who opposes God.

And thus we might add—all that belong to God.

Another name that depicts the Serpent is **“Satan”** which means _____ his goal is steadfast:

As our adversary he attempts **to steal** our fellowship with God

As our accuser he achieves this by condemning us of our sins **to kill** our peace with God
As the father of all lies, he deceives us to the reality of the truth **to destroy** our faith in God.

Unfallen angels are holy angels; They are highly exalted for their unwavering dedication to holiness. **Michael** is considered the most esteemed —Daniel 10:21; Jude 1:9
Gabriel is recognized as a principal messenger —Daniel 9:21; Luke 1:18-19; Luke 1:26-38
Seraphim: fly before the throne of God continually *exalting His holiness* — Isaiah 6:3
Cherubim: *safeguard God's holiness* and protect His character from any defilement—Genesis 3:24

Scripture mentions angels as it pertains to their ministry: they were *present* at creation, *rescued* Lot from the judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah, *proclaimed* the birth of Christ, *testified* to the truth of Jesus’ resurrection, will be *present* at the rapture of the church, and play a *significant role* in the 7-year Great Tribulation, in the opening of the 7 seals, during the 7 trumpets judgements, and the 7 bowl judgments.

The Holy Angels are defined by their exceptional strength, wisdom, and power.

They are God's messengers, sent to minister to us.

Just as the angels ministered to Christ during His most vulnerable moments, they also come to our aid—due to divine grace and our union with Him.

Psalm 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encamps about them that fear Him, and He delivers them."

This emphasizes the protective and supportive nature of these celestial beings.

"Scripture provides us with glimpses into the supernatural realm, allowing us to understand that angels perform various tasks and serve multiple purposes.

In Hebrews 1:7, it is stated, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."

This verse illustrates that angels are spiritual beings created to fulfill God's purposes. Furthermore, the Spirit says, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be *heirs of salvation*?" —Hebrews 1:14

The Apostle Peter, inspired by the spirit encourages us that “*we are kept garrisoned by the power of God through faith for salvation*” —1 Peter 1:5

The holy angels: watch over us, protect us, shield us, fight on our behalf, and deliver us from evil.

Their ministry provides us with God’s promise of our future inheritance.

Where we shall be permanently liberated from the shackles of sin, decay, and death. Moreover, we will be shielded from all forms of pain and suffering, for the former things shall have passed away.

We cannot begin to understand all the purposes that angels fulfill, all we are told is that there are innumerable angels, and they forbid anyone to worship them —

Revelation 22:9

The subject matter of angels and demons has captivated the masses for centuries.

The curiosity of spiritual beings has flooded our society.

The secular world knows that there is a sense of an unseen world that interacts with our world.

We have seen this spilled over into Hollywood.

Hollywood has made **evil accessible** with movies such as “Poltergeist”

They have **watered down the supernatural** by making it tame such as “Casper the Ghost”

They have even **portrayed demons as being funny** like “Ghostbusters”

There is much confusion in our secular society and within the church.

According to the latest studies, Christians at large *do not believe* in a **literal Devil**.

They do not believe that demons are, in fact, fallen angels. —Deuteronomy 32:17

They deny the fact that there is **a demonic world** deceiving and tormenting us **in our world**.

According to the latest Barna research 47% of professing Christians do not believe that Satan and demons are real, they believe that they are merely **a symbol of evil**.

What we are seeing is a decline within the Western Church.

Christianity in America has lost its Guide and therefore it has no compass.

Much like in every generation, the authenticity and inherency of the scriptures are under attack.

It is said that only 25% of Christians believe that the scriptures are in fact the word of God;

and out of that same survey only 58% believe that God’s word is in fact inspired.

Despite what people think, the scriptures are not merely ink on paper.

The word of God is living and powerful, it discerns our thoughts and reveals the intent of the heart.

It does not merely **contain** the word of God; it **is** the word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16

*All scripture is given **by inspiration of God***

If you recall we studied the meaning of this text back in our Bible Basics course.

The term *by inspiration of God* literally means **“God breathed”**

What does this mean? It means that the origins of these words do not come from man *but* come **from the very mind of God Himself**.

Though they are recorded by man, they are authored by God the Holy Spirit.

The scriptures reveal Jesus as both Lord and Savior.

Whenever we read God’s word, the Spirit of God speaks to us —1 Thessalonians 1:13

Through studying the scriptures, we can gain insights into the mind, heart, and plan of God.

Faith in Jesus Christ brings about our salvation, renewal, empowerment, and transformation.

Let us recall what we have been studying and learning:

The fact that God’s word is inspired—testifies to the very origin of God’s word.

But let us see that it not only points to *the origin* of God’s word,
it also testifies to *the power* of God’s word.

Let us go back to the beginning, if you would please turn with me in your Bible to
Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was without form and void and darkness was on the face of the deep, and
the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Then 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.

God called the light day, and the darkness He called night.

So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Let’s put into practice what we have learned from our previous classes.

In our Bible Basics course, we learned that there were three major elements to Bible study.

Observation* Interpretation* Application

Observation answers the question: “What does the scripture portray?”

Whenever we observe something,

our desire is always to frame a reference to what it *actually being pictured*.

Much like that of a jigsaw puzzle—

we must see “the bigger picture” if we are going to “begin to assemble the pieces together.”

Interpretation answers the question: “What does the scripture mean?”

by allowing scripture to authenticate and validate our observation

we thus clarify scripture by using the scriptures to interpret scripture.

Application answers the question: Once we understand what it meant in the lives of our
examples, (1 Corinthians 10:6) we can ask, how can I relate this scripture to my own life?

So, let us observe **Who** we have in this setting.

What is happening in this setting?

When did this take place?

How did this take place?

Why is this included and for what purpose is God revealing this to us?

So let us observe **Who** do we have in this setting?

Let us observe **When** did this take place?

Let us observe **What** is happening? **What** is being said?

Let us observe **How** did this take place?

Let us see

Why is this included and for what purpose is God revealing this to us?

The opening description of the world paints a vivid picture of God's grand plan for redemption. It portrays God's meticulous design of salvation on the canvas of redemptive history, granting us insight into His sovereign will through the Spirit's portrayal of God's mercy and grace. This masterpiece reveals the awe-inspiring intention of sending His Son as the world's light and Savior, showcasing His majestic and all-powerful nature.

As we went through the Covenant of redemption,
we observed how the Lord has made known to us the *mystery* of His will.
The word mystery used here indicates _____?
that which was concealed throughout the many types, metaphors,
and typologies of Christ woven throughout the Old Testament.

The Covenant of Redemption is that everlasting agreement in which the Trinity entered into a binding unbreakable oath made through many promises. The covenant was sealed by blood and would come into power and take effect only at the death of the Testator—the eternal Son of God.

God predetermined the plan of redemption according to the good pleasure which He purposed in His Son before the foundation of the world.

See Isaiah 45:22-25

Genesis is termed “The seed plot of the Bible” for in it we have hidden just beneath the soil, all the great doctrines which are afterward full developed and explained in the scripture by the books that follow. —Aurthur W. Pink

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth.**

Thus, it is here at the very beginning where God reveals Himself as the Blessed Trinity, where **angels are created**, where the heavens and the earth are made, where *Man is exhibited as the crowning work of God’s glory* made by the Potters own hand.

It is here where we encounter that “serpent of old” where *the schemes or the wiles of Satan are first manifested*, where **God’s word is brought into question**, where darkness casts doubt on the accuracy, integrity, and authority of God’s truth.

Where deception is set into motion, where *man denies and rebels against God*

Where **the truth is exchanged for the lie**, where man worships the creation rather than the Creator.

Where man is known as *fallen, sinful and out of fellowship with God.*

Where **blood is first shed**, where God **sacrifices the innocent on behalf of the guilty.**

Where the works of Cain are not accepted and Abel’s offering and sacrifice is.

Where **“Justification by faith”** is first introduced “Abraham believed God.” and Dr Dell Tacket says, “and the rest of the book is played out.”

Genesis 1:2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was **without form** and **void** and **darkness was on the face** of the deep.

In the original Hebrew it literally reads, “The earth *became* a ruin.”

So, what do we observe in this verse?

Three characteristics:

Without form ● Void ● Covered with Darkness

What do we observe? That some horrific event took place between verse one and verse two.

Do we see the analogy?

God creates the earth and soon afterwards it was plunged into a state of darkness.

That which was created good had fallen into total ruin.

It is as if the Holy Spirit gives us a glimpse into the spiritual realm.

—Romans 5:12

Is not this a description of man’s internal condition and state after the fall?

Without form: Man, being alienated from the life of God, has no foundation to build his life upon.

Thus, he has no framework in life to give him a sense of stability or direction.

He has no structure—no moral fabric; he has no real sense of order—only chaos.

Void: Without God, man is lost in the world, left without hope.

He is void of the true meaning and purpose of life, and thus he has no sense of fulfillment.

He is empty inside, there is a bareness in his soul, thus he finds no resting place and no peace.

His life seems pointless because he finds no true satisfaction nor contentment in life.

He is void of God’s love, void of God’s mercy, void of God’s grace, void of God’s truth.

Covered in Darkness: The natural man is void of God’s truth; they are void of the light of Christ.

Night in scripture is always associated with that of darkness.

As a result of sin everyone is born into spiritual darkness, they are blind to God’s truth.

The term walking in darkness, is a picture of a man who is self-centered not Christ centered.

He is governed by the desires of the flesh, and not by the Spirit, he lives a life separated from God.

Those living in a kingdom of darkness have no eternal perspective. This is the heritage and effects of the fall, man is left in darkness, moral and spiritual, having his understanding darkened.

God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

—Daniel 5:23

And **the Spirit of God** was hovering *moving* over the face of the waters. —Genesis 1:2-3

Thus, it is here that we see *Divine intervention*, if there is to be hope, God’s Spirit *must first move*.

Fallen man is as helpless as the grass that withers and the flower that fades and dies.

If there is to be new life it must be accomplished by God Himself.

Thus, God began to speak.

“Then God said, **“Let there be Light.”** and there was light.

First, we see the **activity of the Holy Spirit** and now, we *hear the spoken Word*.

Light comes to the sinner through the Word of God applied by the Spirit of God—J. Boice

“the entrance of Thy words gives light” —Psalm 119:130

Genesis 1:4

And God saw that the light was good and He separated **the light** from **the darkness**.

It is here where we see God separating the two kingdoms, the physical from the spiritual, the temporal from the eternal, the children of the Day from the children of the night.

As God continues to speak day by day,

what was once without form—now takes on shape, what was once void—is being filled with life, and what was once dark—is now being penetrated with Light.

Therefore, what we observe in the very beginning is mirrored in the heart of every believer.

2 Corinthians 4:6

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, Who has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Out of God’s own will He brought us *into new life by the word of truth*. —James 1:18

God desires to speak to us day by day,

yet since faith come by hearing and hearing by the word of God,

God requires that we respond to His word based on faith.

God’s word must be **planted into our hearts** by receiving it—if it is **to shape** *our behaviors*.

God’s word must be **our mirror**—if it is going **to mold** *our character*.

God’s word must become **our meat and drink** if we are to **be sustained** and **satisfied** daily.

Despite the deceit of the Devil leading Eve astray and Adam's disobedience to God, the overarching plan of redemption continued to unfold and prevail.

God made provision for sin in the sending of His Son.

Isaiah 55:10-11

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void,
but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Let us recall that the seed is the word of God, and the Sower is Christ.

In His role as the last Adam, Christ became our representative and new Federal Head. By taking on humanity, Jesus identified with us and experienced our temptations, all while leading a sinless life. He alone achieved what Adam failed to carry out.

Jesus willingly went to the cross on behalf of all humanity, offering His life as a sacrifice to atone for our sins and to fulfill the penalty of death. As believers who have wholeheartedly put our trust in the redemptive work of Christ, we are no longer under **the authority of Adam.**

Instead, we have transitioned into being under **the authority and leadership of Christ.** When we are united with Christ through faith, the miracle of redemption takes place.

When Jesus died, our old man, the controlling old nature was crucified with Christ. thus, His resurrection signifies our spiritual rebirth.

By being joined to Christ, we make the transition from death to life.

In Mathew 11:25 Jesus said, “I thank You Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have **hidden these things from the wise** and prudent and have **revealed them to babes.**”

The word *babe* here carries the expression to possess **a childlike faith.**

But let us distinguish that of a childlike reliance to that of **a childlike behavior.**

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world, whoever *follows Me* will never _____
but have the light of life.”

As we have stated the Aposlte Paul states that **the grace of God teaches us**

“to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,
while we wait for the blessed hope—

the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” —Titus 2:12-13

In the beginning, it is observed that God created both the visible and invisible worlds.

In addition, He created angelic beings within the angelic realm.

God created the heavens and the earth and all that exist today including mankind.

Scripture is clear:

For by Him **all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;

all things have been created **through Him** and **for Him**—Colossians 1:16

We are also taught that

“He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together.”—Colossians 1:17

“That He upholds all thing **by the word of His power**” —Hebrews 1:3

In the beginning, God spoke everything into existence and with His word all life and meaning came.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them

by the breath of His mouth —Psalm 33:6

By faith we understand that *the worlds* were framed and created **by the word of God**,
so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible —Hebrews 11:3

What we note here is that in the beginning God spoke, and in the beginning was the word,
and that **He** was in the **beginning with God**, and that **He was God**.

The **He** refers to Jesus this indicates that He had always existed —John 1:1-2

yet, we are also taught that **the word became flesh and dwelt among us** —John 1:14

In the Gospel “**Jesus taught as one having authority**” — Mark 1:22.

Jesus we are told was full of the Holy Spirit, and I believe that He possessed the fullness of the
Spirit because the Spirit possessed all of Jesus.

What do I mean?

After being anointed with the Holy Spirit of God, Jesus was led into the wilderness where He
resisted the temptations presented by Satan.

Tempted by the Devil and tested by God, Jesus was tempted in all ways like us yet without sin.

His triumph over temptation serves as a powerful testimony to the authority of God’s word
demonstrated in the power of the Spirit.

At the end of that testing, we are told that *angels ministered to Jesus*,

and that Jesus returned **in the power of the Spirit** to Galilee. —Luke 4:14

After overcoming the devil, the Son of Man arises with immense power and authority.

Jesus walked in the Power and Authority of the Holy Spirit.

“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience” —Hebrews 5:8

"Jesus's obedience was not a result of disobedience, but rather a demonstration of His understanding of the sacrifice required for obedience as fully Man. Jesus wholeheartedly submitted to His Father, faithfully following His will in order to bring about and accomplish redemption."

The text emphasizes that Jesus triumphed over the Devil by utilizing the authority of God's word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May Christ be our example:

To every child of God in the room,

to all the soldiers of Christ who are listening to the sound of my voice,

Listen....you can gain much knowledge about Christ by coming to church,

you can acquire much theology by reading books:

But true spiritual authority only comes when..

like Jesus, we first overcome temptation and sin **in our private lives.**

For there is no such thing as public authority **without private authenticity.**

We must have tangible evidence of Christ's rule and reign in and over our lives

if we are to be an effective witness —

Oswald Chambers states, **“Our lives must be a holy example of the reality of our message.”**

Truly inspired authority only comes from Heaven.

If we are to **“walk just as Jesus walked”** —1 John 2:6 we must be **“full of the Holy Spirit”** Luke 4:1

The concept of being filled with the Spirit does not solely entail the accumulation of more of the Spirit, but rather encompasses *submitting to the authority, power, and rule of the Holy Spirit.*

Rather than seeking to possess more of Him,

being full of the Spirit involves granting the Holy Spirit a **greater possession of us.**

My daily prayer in teaching these classes is that we do not become consumed with doctrine and knowledge, that our faith *is not* a mere *blackboard theology* that never becomes experiential.

Please do not misunderstand me, knowing the truth is essential, right doctrine is vital; but let us never forget that the Apostles laid the foundation of the church by teaching biblical authoritative doctrine, and yet the result of that was that **they experienced** what they preached.

see 2 Corinthians 1:4:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Colossians 1:9-14

John 1:36

The inspired words of the Apostle to the Church at Ephesus are well known by most Christians.

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood” —Ephesians 6:12

But how many of us fight the good fight of faith?

Do we fully grasp the magnitude of the spiritual battle being waged every single second every minute, and every hour of every day, year after year?

David Powlison final book before he passed away from cancer was titled:

“Safe and Sound: Standing Firm in Spiritual Battles.”

“You are in a battle; I am in a battle.

And every person we counsel is —like us—living in a thick fog of war, stalked by a deadly predator, and facing a master of deception.

When our hearts and flesh deceive us and our culture misleads us,

Satan’s desires and purposes are at work.” ~David Powlison

“Know thy enemy”

“If you know neither thy enemy nor thyself, you will succumb in every battle.”

~Sun Tzu

Due to the rebellion of Lucifer, he is now referred to as “The Devil” over thirty-five times Devil refers to his mood of carrying out his evil plans and designs.

“he slanders with lies”—“his accusations are false”— “his words defy the truth.”



As the Master of Deception Satan Targets our mind, his ultimate weapon is Lies.

Satan’s supreme goal is to cause us to doubt God’s word, God’s promises, and God’s presence.

Fifty-two times he is crowned with the title of “Satan” which means “enemy” or “adversary”

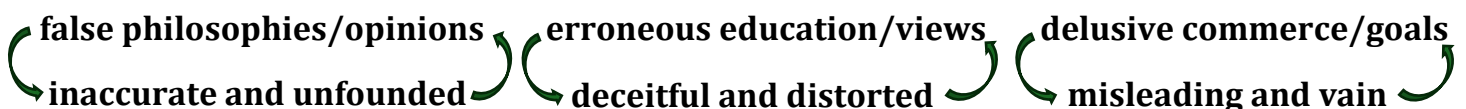
He is God’s enemy and our adversary.

Satan, therefore, is our enemy—clever, cruel, hungry, always on the prowl.

He is called “the god of this world” because he blinds the minds of the world to the gospel through all forms of false religions and cults that have sprung from his lies and deception.

Satan comes not as a dragon of darkness but “is transformed into an angel of light.”

He is called “Ruler of this world” because his agenda and goals are to promote



As noted, Lucifer was created by God the Son to worship and bring glory to God. He is that **“anointed cherub who covers”** Ezekiel 28:14 he was full of **wisdom** and **beauty**, (v.12)

“covered with every precious stone in the garden of Eden” (V.13)

“Lucifer was perfect *blameless* from the day he was created” (v. 15)

And the Holy Spirit adds **until** his heart was lifted up because of his beauty.

Thus he corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his **splendor.**” (v.17)

Outward beauty can be deceiving; but what the Lord finds precious is:

“is the hidden inner beauty of the heart” and **“to walk humbly in the ways and fear of God.”**

See 1 Peter 3:2-3; Micah 6:8; Deuteronomy 10:12

Isaiah 14:13-14

‘You have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation.... I will be like the Most High.’

Satan’s sin originated in pride, it grew into self-deception and ended in rebellion.

Satan **is not an evil force** but rather **a real personal creature.**

He possesses personality traits of personality; intellect, emotion, and **free will.** —2 Timothy 2:26

Satan’s moral character is described as having:

“knowledge” Revelation 12:12 “he knows he has a short time. “—Revelation 12:12

“He can **deceive**” who deceives the whole world —Revelation 12:9

He was **“a murderer”** from the beginning and **“a liar”** from his nature he speaks lies —John 8:44

“He **tempts** to destroy faith” —1 Thessalonians 3:5

He has **“desires”** to sift us like wheat —Luke 22:31

He is very **“intelligent”** his temptation are referred to as “the wiles of the Devil” —Ephesians 6:11

His immortality is referred to as **“the depth of Satan”** —Revelation 2:24

He possesses the ability to make and **“wage war”** —Revelation 12:7; 20:7-8

He can work with all **“powers and signs and lying wonders”** —2 Thessalonians 2:9

Satan can work through the wicked and nature—Job 1-2; and in the disobedient —Ephesians 2:2

Unlike every fallen son of Adam or daughter of Eve who is shaped in iniquity and conceived in sin.

Lucifer willfully rebelled against **“The Divine Trinity”**

Lucifer witnessed with his own eyes and heard with his own ears,

all the divine wonders and glory which the LORD had prepared for those who love Him.

And yet he committed high treason and rebelled with the Trinity **in plain sight.**

Cherubs were created to worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness—Isaiah 6:3

As we come now to the topic of the demonic as it relates to suffering in this world, let us gain insight by not leaning on our own understanding but choose rather to trust in the Lord and submit to Him in all our ways.

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **My ways higher than your ways**, and My thoughts than your thoughts. —Isaiah 55:8-9

The fact that God sovereignly grants permission and power to Satan to cause suffering to His saints is clear throughout scripture; but it is also clear that Satan cannot make a move without the permission of the Almighty.

“God does all things **according to His will** in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and **none can stay His hand.....**” —Daniel 4:35
God works all things together for our eternal good according to His sovereign purpose.

Satan may be a lion, but he is a lion on a leash.

~John Piper

“The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy.**” —John 10:10

As we studied previously in our fourth Bible Basics course:

The first two chapters of the book of Job portray that the malignant assaults of the Devil caused all the trials and afflictions that came upon Job.

But if we were to look to those things which are above and not on the things of earth, we would see that it was Christ ruling and reigning from the throne, **not Satan.**

When Satan comes from going to and fro upon the earth, to give an account to God the LORD says, “**Have you considered My servant Job?** “

Satan replies, “Does Job revere God for no reason?”

You have giving him health, You have made him wealthy, you have blessed him with a posterity, but “put forth Thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse Thee to Thy face.”

So God said, “Behold, all that he has is **in your power.....**” —Job 1:11-12

Satan directs his attacks towards our physical bodies, inflicting pain and suffering with the malicious aim of stripping away our joy and inner peace.

Through prolonged affliction, he erodes our faith by planting seeds of doubt about the goodness of God and by questioning His intentions. Ultimately, Satan seeks to assassinate the believer's perception of God's character and diminish His worth in their heart.

Satan not only wants **to rule the world** but **to take the place of Christ** in our hearts.

As Satan departs from the LORD’s presence,
we see that Satan uses several sources to accomplish his evil plan.

For it is written that Job lost all his oxen, donkeys, sheep, camels, and servants
by the hand of *the Sabeans* and *the Chaldeans* who raided Job’s land.

First: Satan will use “the sons of the wicked one” —Matthew 13:38
to be his “ministers” — 2 Corinthians 11:15; 1 John 3:10

And before Job could cry out “Why is this happening?” another came and said,
“Job, all ten of your children were killed in the house because of a great wind.”

Second, we see that Satan will use what the insurance adjusters call “acts of God.”
Most likely lightning, fires, and a tornado.

It is written Job lost all his oxen, donkeys, sheep, camels, and servants
as the Sabeans and Chaldeans raided his land.

Shortly after, another messenger came and informed Job
that all ten of his children had died in their house due to a great wind.

It is written that Job fell to the ground and worshipped, saying,

“The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away, blessed be the name of the LORD.” —Job 1:21

Let us make a practical application in our modern day:

As I walked into my home after a long day and sat down, the peace was shattered by a phone call.

The news was devastating, someone had hacked into my checking, savings, and investments,
draining all of my accounts. Before I could process this shocking information, the 5 o’clock news
reported a tragic accident. It was incomprehensible: all ten of my children had perished together
in one afternoon. In the face of such unspeakable calamity, the question arises: will I fall to the
ground and curse God, or will I find the strength to worship God?

Soon afterward, Satan comes again to challenge the worth of God’s Character.

and God says, “**....have you considered My servant Job?**”

And Satan says, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life, but stretch out Your hand
now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he surely shall curse you to Your face”

and God says to Satan, **“he is in your power but spare his life.”** —Job 2:6

And it is written that

“Job was stricken with painful boils, from the sole of his feet to the crown on his head.” —Job 2:7

And when Job’s wife succumbs to fiery trial as overwhelming, and Job answers,

“Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” —Job 2:10

In moments of great adversity, will we choose to fall to the ground and curse God or to lift our hearts in worship? I am not advocating for insincere or superficial worship, the kind that merely lip-syncs "I am too blessed to be stressed"

I am referring to the profound way in which Job worshipped God during his darkest hours. Job "rent his robe, shaved his head, fell to the ground and worshipped." (Job 1:20) Job worshipped God out of an expression of deep reverence and despair.

The sobs of grief and pain are not signs of unbelief, the validity of Job's worship was *in his grief*, not despite *of his grief*. Whenever calamity comes, we need to weep with those who weep.

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, it is written that Paul was given a "thorn in the flesh" by the LORD to prevent him from becoming too proud due to the Divine revelations he had received. This "thorn" is described as **"a messenger of Satan"** and was used by God to keep Paul from relying "on his own strength." Even though Paul prayed for the thorn to be removed, the Lord said,, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is perfected in your weakness."**

As a result, Paul embraced his weaknesses and challenges, understanding that God's grace would sustain him through every difficulty. This stands in contrast to the common saying, "God will never give you more than you can handle," in the light of Paul's experience, he would say, **"God's grace provides strength for every trial that we face."**

Satan's goal is to dispute God's design in grace, he aims to oppose God's eternal purpose in our suffering, Satan's objective is to refute the infinite value of God's glory.

Let Job's losses and sufferings testify to God's faithfulness, Let Paul's thorn Speak to us in our day!

These men were *perfected* through suffering, they became *strong* in faith, *holy* in life, *close* in their walk, *steadfast* in their service, and *devoted* to their Master, **by the very discipline through which they passed.**

We should always remember that there are two realms constantly observing us: **the visible world** and **the invisible world.**

Whether it's friends, family or neighbors or the countless angels in the heavenly realm, all eagerly await to see how we respond during times of adversity.

God desire to demonstrate to a skeptical world, as well as Satan and his followers, the profound significance of **treasuring Christ** above all earthly wealth, **valuing Christ** over all material comforts, **cherishing Christ** whenever our health declines, and **exalting** and **magnifying Christ** above all others.

Please turn with me to the Gospel of Mark Chapter 5:8

Let us compare this man to that of Mark Chapter 5:8

This demon-possessed man was by the tombs, undressed, cutting himself, chained, screaming, disturbing the entire neighborhood.

That is what we would expect from someone who is demon-possessed.

Some individuals were overcome by demonic forces, while others were **mute** or **deaf**—Mark 9:25

These individuals were not perceived as dangerous or unpredictable by those around them.

However, some people suffered from severe **epileptic seizures**, leading to such intense distress that they even attempted to **take their own lives** such as is described when a desperate father brings his son to Jesus, who is possessed by a demon—Matthew 17:15

As illustrated in Luke 13:11;16 Satan can cause Camptocormia—Luke 13:11:16.

The demonic can even cause animals to induce self-destructive behavior —Matthew 8:28-34

If you would please turn with me to the Gospel of Mark Chapter 1:21-25

If we were to compare this man to that of Mark Chapter 5:8

This man was sitting in a spiritual worship service, we might say that he was a regular attendee.

He had an interest in the written word, and to hear God’s word being taught.

He was willing to be among God’s people; and yet hidden within this man **was an unclean spirit**.

This man had no outward signs of illness, there is no strange behavior...

other than the fact that while God’s word was being taught,

there was an **outburst of resistance to God’s truth**.

What does this teach us concerning wicked and unclean spirits?

In our society, we encounter individuals who are facing sickness and various health challenges.

Some individuals battle chronic illnesses, while others suffer with psychological disorders.

It's important to recognize that these conditions can be linked to the brokenness of our world due to sin. Jesus showed compassion and performed miracles of healing for many **who were sick**, and there were instances where He also delivered many **from demonic strongholds**.

In studying various scriptures, we find that there is a wide spectrum of symptoms associated with demonic influence in people's lives. It's essential to note that during Jesus' ministry, he healed many individuals who were suffering from various illnesses and were not demon-possessed.

Therefore, we must exercise **extreme caution** and use **wise discernment** before we draw conclusions and **make connections** between sickness, disease, and demonic activity.

Is it conceivable that within our congregation, there may be individuals who participate in worship and engage with God's teachings, but may also be influenced or possessed by a wicked and impure spirit? Jesus clearly stated in Matthew 7:15 that there are those among us who are **dressed in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.**

Jude also stated that these individuals are “like hidden reefs” that “feast with us” yet they have no fear of God, they are described as **“twice dead”** who **“bear no fruit”** Jude 12-13.

Some teach that Simon Peter was saved by his confession of faith.

When Jesus asked, **“But who do say that I am?”**

Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” —Matthew 16:15-16

Moments later, as Peter rebukes Jesus from going to the cross, we see Jesus rebuking Peter.

For Jesus says? **“Get behind Me, Satan.”**

Thus, some will teach, that Peter was saved based on his confession and afterward Satan enters him and influences his speech to prevent Christ from going to the cross.

Now, why does that sound logical but not theological? Well, let's ask the question.

Why would Satan suddenly change his mind and speak through Peter in an attempt to divert Jesus from going to the cross?

It is because Jesus was not actually referring to Satan at all; but rather to *the Satanic principle* and *viewpoint of Satan.*

When Jesus said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan” (Jesus was referring to the spirit of rebellion) **for you are not mindful of the things of God,** (the eternal things of the kingdom) **but are mindful of the things of men.** (the temporary things of earth) Matthew 16:23

The Bible mentions instances where Satan and his evil spirits can possess those who do not believe in God —Matthew 4:34. Additionally, there are references that demonic forces can cause both **physical blindness** (Matthew 12:22) and **spiritual blindness** (2 Corinthians 4:4).

“We are not of those who believe that a person who is filled with the Holy Spirit can be *under the control of* and *be possessed by* a demon.”

If we are **“Spirit-filled”** we are also **Spirit-Sealed for the day of redemption** (Ephesians 4:30).

“The evil one cannot touch us” (1 John 5:18). God is light, holy, and righteous, therefore that which is defiled, wicked, and dark cannot co-exist together.

Please refer to Ephesians 1:13-14; John 10:28; Romans 8:38-39 for more insight.”

After witnessing the man described in Mark's Gospel who was a regular at the synagogue and seemingly part of the community of worshipers yet was afflicted by a wicked and unclean spirit.

Some might be asking the question: **How can we be certain of our salvation?**

Does the act of attending church alone qualify someone as a true Christian?

Is simply listening to God's word enough to make someone a genuine believer?

Can fellowshiping with like-minded individuals be enough to ensure salvation?

Do acts of goodwill done in the name of Christ guarantee a righteous standing with God?

Is faith alone sufficient for salvation,
even if there is a lack of genuine affection and devotion toward the object of our faith?

If our innermost desires and yearnings remain unchanged,
can we sincerely claim to have a new heart?

Have we authentically forgiven those who have wronged us,
and have we also forgiven ourselves for causing harm to others?

How can we assert that we are positioned with Christ in heavenly places
if our outlook and priorities remain unchanged?

Often you will hear someone say that all you need is a “change of heart”

That you need a little reformation, or accountability in your life.

While their intention is perhaps good, their theology is psychology.

Reformation is **the work of man**, it is man trying to **be better**, and **try harder**.

Reformation is **attempting to remove evil** from the old nature, it is man being **more disciplined**,
it is man **praying harder**, singing **louder**, becoming **stronger**, it is man **turning over a new leaf**,
it is a man **determined to say no to temptation** by **rebuking the Devil**.

Regeneration is **the work of God**, it is the profound spiritual process that involves the
implantation of an entirely new nature within a person
rather than **changing or removing anything** from them.

This process is similar to physical birth,
as it signifies the beginning of **a new existence** in the spiritual realm.

Just as each order of creation brings forth after its own kind, those who are begotten of God
become His children. Through regeneration,

born-again individuals become **partakers of Christ's nature**, at their *spiritual birth*,
much like how they were made **partakers of Adam's nature** at their *natural birth*.

This transformation occurs as the life of Christ is received through the power of the Holy Spirit

Let us end by being reminded that we are engaged in a constant spiritual battle every moment of every day, and every day of the year.

As we mentioned earlier, **Satan's power**, while limited by God's permissive and sovereign will—**is not to be underestimated.**

Our entire relationship with God is regulated by whether or not we have met absolute Authority.

Obedience in the life of Jesus was demonstrated by following His Father's will.

Our obedience should mirror this to fulfill God's purpose: walking in step with His will.

Sin was not the cause of Satan's fall; it was his rebellion against God's Authority, every sin committed is a willful act of rebellion against the authority of God.

Satan and those who followed him **abandoned their own dominion**, they became fallen angels.

These **renounced their rightful positions**, and by so doing they **forfeited their identities** thus becoming known **as demons**.

God not only calls us to have faith and receive His life, but He also calls us to uphold His authority through our obedience. Therefore, let us **not follow the example** of the fallen angels, **who believed in God but rebelled** against Him in their hearts validated by their actions.

Instead, we are called to live in obedience to Him as our Lord, honoring His authority in all that we do.

As believers, we need to be aware that Satan and his minions take pleasure in instilling fear and disgust in us. They constantly accuse us of our sins, before the throne of grace night and day, aiming to make us live in fear of others discovering our transgressions.

If we remain ignorant of Satan's deceitful devices, we may become self-righteous and deceive ourselves, ultimately falling into the sin of bearing false witness and straying from the path of truth.

Additionally, it's crucial to understand that evil spirits possess **the ability to influence** our moods, imaginations, and thoughts, but **they cannot exert full control over** them.

It's worth noting that we don't have the authority to confront or rebuke Satan or Demons. Even Michael the archangel, when contending with the Devil, said, **"The Lord rebuke you!"**

And this is why the Apostle Paul instructs in 2 Corinthians 10:5

To Cast down and destroy every high claim and all arguments that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. —2 Cor. 13:14