

RETHINK: BUILDING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW! "THE MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE!"

RETHINK:

- **<u>RETHINK</u>**-to consider or assess again, especially in order to make a change.
 - MATTHEW 3:1-3
- REPENT-G3539-metanoia-verb-to think afterwards or to change the mind.
 - o ACTS 17:30-31
- <u>STUBBORNNESS</u>-having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something especially in spite of truthful data.
 - o I SAMUEL 15:22-23

WORLDVIEW:

- WORLDVIEW-a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world.
 - o PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11
- MINDSET-the established set of attitudes held by someone.
 - o <u>PROVERBS 22:24-</u>25
- <u>PERSPECTIVE</u>-a particular attitude towards something or a way of regarding of something or a point of view.
 - o ROMANS 12:1-2

BUILDING:

- **BUILDING**-to construct something by putting parts or materials together.
 - MATTHEW 7:24-29



- **DISCIPLE**-a follower, a learner or pupil of a teacher.
 - o JOHN 8:31-32
- TRUTH-that which is true or is in accordance with facts of reality.
 - <u>PROVERBS 23:22-24</u>-Since exchange is no robbery," we then must buy lifegiving truths by exchanging them with lies that were woven in by emotions!
- **CULTURE**-the ideas, customs, and social behavior of a particular people or society.
 - o **DANIEL 1:1-9**

*It is not only our responsibility to believe in Jesus, however it is also our responsibility to believe "like" Jesus believed! - Pastor Terrence L. Bridges

WHAT SHOULD WE RETHINK ABOUT THE MOST?

- 1. OUR COUNTRY!
- 2. OUR CREATOR!
- 3. OURSELVES!
- 4. OUR ORIGIN!
- 5. OUR ENDING!
- 6. OUR PRESENT!



RETHINK: OUR COUNTRY!

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that <u>all men</u> are <u>created equal</u>, that they are <u>endowed</u> by their <u>CREATOR</u> with certain <u>UNALIENABLE RIGHTS</u>, that among these are <u>LIFE</u>, <u>LIBERTY</u> and the <u>PURSUIT of HAPPINESS!</u>

- Men-plural of man or human being of either sex!
- Created-something brought into existence by someone!
- Equal-being something the same quantity, size, degree or value!
- Endowed-provide with a quality, ability or asset!
- Creator-a person or thing that brings something in existence!
- Unalienable-inalienable-not subject to being taken away from or given away by the possessor!
- Rights-a moral or legal entitlement to have or to do something!
- Life-the existence of animals and plants between birth and death with the capacity to grow and reproduce!
- Liberty-the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior or political views; the power or scope to act as one pleases!
- Pursuit-the action of pursuing someone or something!
- Happiness-the state of being happy, content, pleased, satisfied or joyful!
- I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created."-Martin Luther King

* All of our rights come from our Creator. Even today this is a very radical idea. In nearly all countries, power belongs to the state and is occasionally loaned to individuals. In America, power comes from God to the individual and is loaned to the state or a king. It would be hard to imagine a greater difference in first principles." -Newt Gingrich



RETHINK: OUR CREATOR

- Then Moses said to <u>God</u>, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The <u>God</u> of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ And <u>God</u> said to Moses, "<u>I AM</u> WHO <u>I AM</u>." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '<u>I AM</u> has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ Moreover <u>God</u> said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: '<u>LORD God</u> of your fathers, the <u>God</u> of Abraham, the <u>God</u> of Isaac, and the <u>God</u> of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My <u>Name</u> forever, and this *is* My <u>Memorial</u> to all generations.' (EXODUS 3:13-15)
 - GOD-H430-<u>Elohim</u>-noun (root word-H433-<u>eloha</u>-of any god, mostly of the true God, of god or deity) plural, rulers and judges, divine ones, angels, or gods.
 - IAM-H1961-Haya-verb-(root word H1933-hava-verb- to fall to be, to become, to come to pass, to come to existence) to happen, to occur or to come about.
 - LORD-H3068-YHWH-proper noun-the Existing One, the proper name of the One True God, the Self-Existent or Eternal, Jewish national name of God. 6,515 times in 5,600 verses in the Old Testament.
 - <u>NAME</u>-H8034-<u>sem</u>-noun (root word-H7760-<u>sum</u>-to put, to make, to set up, to appoint, to ordain, to mark or to care) reputation, fame, glory, memorial or monument.
 - MEMORIAL-H2143-<u>zeker</u>-noun (root word-H2142-<u>zakar</u>-to remember or to be mindful of) remembrance, memory or scent.
- And <u>Elohim</u> spoke to Moses and said to him: "I <u>amYHWH</u>. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as <u>God Almighty</u>, but <u>by My Name YHWH</u> was not known to them. ⁴ I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. ⁵ And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. ⁶ Therefore say to the children of



Israel: 'I am YHWH; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷ I will take you as My people, and I will be your Elohim. Then you shall know that I am YHWH your Elohim who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am YHWH.' (EXODUS 6:2-8)

- GOD-H410-<u>EL</u>-noun (root word-H352-<u>ayil</u>-noun-a ram, from its curved and twisted horns) power, mighty or idols.
- <u>ALMIGHTY</u>-H7706-<u>Saday</u>-noun (root word-H7703-<u>sadad</u>-verb-to spoil, to waste, to destroy or to rob) Most Powerful.

* What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us- A.W. Tozer

* Ultimately, your thoughts about God will determine your quality of life on your journey to your final destination!" - Pastor Terrence and Sis Carol Bridges



THE FIRST WAY: YHWH OF COMPASSION!

Now <u>YHWH</u> descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of <u>YHWH</u>. ⁶ And <u>YHWH</u> passed before him and proclaimed, "<u>YHWH</u>, <u>YHWH EI</u>, <u>merciful</u>... (EXODUS 34:5-6)

How would you define compassion in your own words?

DEFINITION OF COMPASSION

- <u>COM·PAS·SION</u> /kəm-'pa-shən/ sympathetic <u>consciousness</u> of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it; often used with the feeling sympathy the opposite is to be callous, coldhearted, hard-heartedness.
- H73469-<u>rahum</u>-noun (root word <u>raham</u>-verb-to have compassion, to pity, to love, to love deeply, to have mercy, to be compassionate, to have tender affection, to fondle, to be soft with, to be in cherishing, to be soothing, to have a gentle emotion of the mind or to behold with tenderest affection) mercy or compassionate, (always of God with one possible exception, comes from the Hebrew word for womb.)
- H2550-<u>hāmal</u>-verb-khaw-mal'; a primitive root; to commiserate; by implication, to spare: —to have compassion, to (have) pity, to spare.
 - And when she had opened [it], she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept.
 And she had compassion on him, and said, This [is one] of the Hebrews' children (EXODUS 2:6-KJV).
 - He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD [is] gracious and full of compassion (<u>PSALMS 111:4-KJV</u>).
 - The LORD [is] gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy (<u>PSALMS 145:8-KJV</u>).



- G4698-<u>splagchnizomai</u>-noun-bowels, inward affection, tender mercy, intestines, the bowels were regarded as the seat of the more violent passions, such as anger and love; but the Hebrews as the seat of the tenderer affections, kindness, benevolence, compassion, hence our heart (tender mercies, affections, etc.). Compassion is truly expressed by God's actions of taking responsibility for our plight and helping us. It was not enough for Him to feel sorry or have pity for us, but He took responsibility for us. We often say we are compassionate, but what we really are is just sympathetic to someone else in their time of need.
 - But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion [on him], and went to [him], and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave [them] to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee (<u>LUKE</u> 10:33-35-KJV).
 - But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd (MATTHEW 9:36-KJV).
 - And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth [His] hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. (MARK 1:41-KJV).
 - And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him (LUKE 15:20-KJV).

*Compassion is more than just having sympathy for a person and their situation. Godly and Biblical compassion calls for one to take the responsibility for that other person and to see them healed and made whole! -Elder Kevin R. Freeman



THE SECOND WAY: YHWH OF GRACE!

Now <u>YHWH</u> descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of <u>YHWH</u>. ⁶ And <u>YHWH</u> passed before him and proclaimed, "<u>YHWH</u>, <u>YHWH</u> <u>EI</u>, merciful and <u>gracious</u> . . . (EXODUS 34:5-6)

- First because of sin and second because of God blocking <u>access</u> to <u>Eternal Life</u> after sin came into our world, Adam and Eve could not gain <u>access</u> to something that would provide <u>Eternal Life</u>!
 - And YHWH Elohim said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: Therefore YHWH Elohim sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the Tree of Life (GENESIS 3:22-24-KJV).

What is your definition of Grace? And why do we need Grace?

DEFINITION OF GRACIOUS

- <u>GRA·CIOUS</u> /'grā-shəs/ the unmerited and divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification, a virtue coming from God. Courteous, kind, and pleasant, especially toward someone of lower social status.
- H2587—<u>hannûn</u>-adjective-gracious, only used as an attribute of God, as hearing the
 cry of the vexed debtor (khaw-nan'; a primitive root (compare <u>H2583</u>); properly, to
 bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow;
 - But Noah found <u>grace</u> in the <u>eyes</u> of <u>YHWH</u> (<u>GENESIS 6:8-KJV</u>).
 - <u>EYES</u>-<u>ayin</u>, ah'-yin; probably a primitive word; an eye (literally or figuratively). As showing mental qualities; of mental and spiritual



faculties (fig.) If you are married you will understand what I am about to say, "He or She caught my eye!"

- For the <u>eyes</u> of <u>YHWH</u> run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to <u>shew</u>
 <u>Himself strong</u> in the behalf of [them] whose heart [is] perfect toward Him.
 ... (<u>2 CHRONICLES 16:9-KJV</u>).
- G5485-*cháris*-khar'-ece; from G5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude). God's **grace** is His character of providing a Way for Him to shew His love and zeal towards us and also to provide a Way for us to come to Him. His **grace** allows you to walk into the Righteousness of God. We are **not** righteous first and then we receive His **grace**. His **grace** is extended to us first that we may come into right standing with Him.
 - And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of <u>grace</u> and truth
 . . . For the law was given by Moses, [but] <u>grace</u> and truth came by Jesus Christ (<u>JOHN 1:14-17-KJV</u>).
 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the <u>Way</u>, the Truth, and the Life: no man <u>cometh</u> unto the Father, but by me (<u>JOHN 14:6-KJV</u>).
 - Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, <u>grace</u> did much more abound. That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might <u>grace</u> reign through righteousness unto <u>Eternal Life</u> by Jesus Christ our Lord (<u>ROMANS 5:20-21-KJV</u>).
 - And He said unto me, My <u>grace</u> is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me (<u>2 CORINTHIANS</u> <u>12:9-KJV</u>).



- In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (EPHESIANS 1:7-KJV).
- That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by <u>grace</u> are ye <u>saved</u> through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God (<u>EPHESIANS</u> <u>2:7-8-KJV</u>).
- For the <u>grace</u> of God that bringeth <u>salvation</u> hath appeared to all men (<u>TITUS</u>
 <u>2:11-KJV</u>).
- And spared not the old world, but <u>saved</u> Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly (<u>2 PETER 2:5-KJV</u>).
- The <u>grace</u> of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen (<u>REVELATION</u>
 22:21-KJV).

*Graciousness is God's characteristic that provides us <u>access</u> to Salvation and into a deeper and more intimate Walk with Him. It is His Way for us to come to Him! -<u>Elder Kevin R. Freeman</u>



THE THIRD WAY: YHWH OF LONGSUFFERING!

Now <u>YHWH</u> descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of <u>YHWH</u>. ⁶ And <u>YHWH</u> passed before him and proclaimed, "<u>YHWH</u>, <u>YHWH</u> <u>El</u>, merciful and gracious, <u>longsuffering</u>... (<u>EXODUS 34:5-6</u>)

What was the best example of someone showing you longsuffering?

DEFINITION OF LONGSUFFERING

- <u>DICTIONARY</u>-having or showing patience in spite of troubles, especially caused by other people. Thesaurus-patient, forbearing, tolerant, or uncomplaining.
- LONGSUFFERING-H750-<u>arek</u>-adjective (root compound word H748-<u>arak</u>-verb-to prolong, to long, to lengthen, to draw out, to defer, to tarry) long of nose, long feathered, long pinions, patient of spirit, slow to anger <u>&</u> H639-<u>ap</u>-noun (root word H599-<u>anapp</u>-verb-to be angry, to be displeased, to breathe hard, to be enraged, to emit breath through the nostrils) anger or wrath.
- G3116-<u>makrothymos</u>-adverb (root compound word G3117-<u>makros</u>-adjective-long or far <u>& G2372-thymos</u>-noun-wrath, fierceness, indignation, passion or anger boiling up and soon subsiding again) patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance, forbearance, slowness to avenging wrongs.

YHWH IS CREATOR/FATHER/HUSBAND/FARMER!

• In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The 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 (GENESIS 1:1-2).



- Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made* the stars also. ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good (GENESIS 1:14-18).
- Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. ²² "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease." (GENESIS 8:20-22)
- Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand (JAMES 5:7-8).
- Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life (GALATIANS 6:7-8).



- Only those that have seed in the ground will appreciate the rain. -Sis Tina
 Freeman
- O God's capacity of being patient with us comes from the fact that not only is He a God of Perfection, but more importantly, He is the God of Process. We see this in His decision in creating the Heavens and the Earth in six days and resting on the seventh. He gave the sun, moon and stars for times and seasons and He works out His will through the Law of Sowing and Reaping!

* God is also able to be patient with us because He is fully involved and fully invested into the maturity of our character. Therefore, He is not easily distracted by the need to defend Himself against our offences while He is in the process of maturing us! -Pastor Terrence and Sis Carol Bridges



THE FOURTH WAY: YHWH OF ABUNDANT GOODNESS!

Now <u>YHWH</u> descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of <u>YHWH</u>. ⁶ And <u>YHWH</u> passed before him and proclaimed, "<u>YHWH</u>, <u>YHWH</u> <u>El</u>, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and <u>abounding</u> in <u>goodness</u>... (<u>EXODUS 34:5-6</u>)

What do you base your own personal definition of Goodness on?

DEFINITION OF GOODNESS

- <u>DICTIONARY</u>-the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate; acts marked by generosity, consideration or concern for others without expecting praise or reward; helpfulness towards someone in need, not in return for anything, not in return for anything, nor for the advantage of the helper himself, but for that of a person helped.
- <u>ABOUNDING</u>-H7227-*rab*-adjective-abundant, many, great, enough, multitude, much, exceedingly, full, large or vast.
- GOODNESS-H2617 hesed-noun (root word H2616-hasad-verb to show thyself merciful, to be good or kind, eager and ardent desire for love and grace) mercy, kindness, lovingkindness, pity, favor, faithfulness, zeal towards anyone in love and kindness, benignity or benevolence towards men, piety of men towards God, the grace, favor and mercy of God towards men.
 - G1656-<u>eleos</u>-noun-mercy, kindness or good will towards the miserable and afflicted joined with a desire to help them or readiness to help those in trouble.
- The word <u>Goodness</u> gets somewhat lost in translation in the sense because one
 would naturally think that His abundant <u>Goodness</u> would speak to God being
 good, however the more correct meaning speaks to His mercy and His loving
 kindness.



- Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy *mercy*, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die (GENESIS 19:19-KJV).
 - Lot's rescue from Sodom despite his reluctance to leave.
 - Mercy in the Hebrew is H2617 hesed.
 - Having escaped the sin and judgement of Sodom, Lot recognizes the "Abundant <u>Goodness</u>" of God by His act of mercy on his life.
 - What would we have done to or for Lot?
- And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments (EXODUS 20:6-KJV).
 - o Rethinking the **Goodness** of God we see a key principle given to us.
 - YHWH'S <u>hesed</u> is conditional and selective!
 - Them who Love God!
 - Them who Keep His commandments!
 - God's Abundant <u>Goodness</u> speaks to His Covenant Relationship with us.
- I previously taught about a spark that catches a man eye when he sees a woman.
 - This begins a Courtship.
 - o What is the next step is for either the man or the woman to?
 - Present themselves in the best possible way.
 - <u>Display</u> the beauty in women or strength in men.
- YHWH moves from the detail of <u>displaying</u> His character to the beauty of <u>acting</u> in
 His character in <u>Abundant Goodness</u>, <u>Faithfulness</u>, <u>Mercy</u> and <u>Jealousy</u> with us.
 Many Christians never move from <u>Courtship</u> to <u>Covenant</u> with God!



BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- The definition of a boy is a male child, from birth to full growth, especially one less than 18 years of age; a young man who lacks maturity and judgment.
- The definition of a girl is a female child, from birth to full growth. a young, immature woman, especially formerly, an unmarried one.
- The definition of friend is a person attached to another by feelings of affection or personal regard.

COVENANTIAL/MARITIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

You will not fully understand the "Abundant <u>Goodness"</u> of God with a boyfriend/girlfriend mentality and walk with God. God revealing of His character was summed up in:

- And he said, Behold, I make a <u>Covenant</u>: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou [art] shall see the work of <u>YHWH</u>: for it [is] a terrible thing that I will do with thee (<u>EXODUS 34:10 KJV</u>)
- When I was a child, I <u>spake</u> as a child, I <u>understood</u> as a child, I <u>though</u>t as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things (<u>1CORINTHIANS 13:11 KJV</u>)
 - o When you are immature:
 - <u>Say</u>, "What the other person is going to give to me?"
 - Understand, "Only what makes me happy and feel good!"
 - Think, "It is all about me!"
 - When you are mature:
 - Ask, "What can I do for you for the other person?
 - Know, "What makes the other person happy and feel good.
 - Think, "What about the others too?"
- To perform the mercy [promised] to our fathers, and to remember His Holy Covenant (<u>LUKE 1:72-KJV</u>).



- Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the Covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed (ACT 3:25-KJV).
- And this I say, [that] the Covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the Law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect (GALATIANS 3:17-KJV).
- But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the Mediator of a better Covenant, which was established upon better promises (<u>HEBREWS 8:6-KJV</u>).
- For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people (HEBREWS 8:10-KJV).
- And to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to the Blood of Sprinkling, that speaketh better things than [that of] Abel (<u>HEBREWS 12:24-KJV</u>).
- Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the Everlasting Covenant (<u>HEBREWS</u> <u>13:20-KJV</u>).

*YHWH moves from the detail of <u>displaying</u> His character to the beauty of <u>acting</u> in His character in Abundant <u>Goodness</u> to move us from <u>Courtship</u> to <u>Covenant</u> with Him. -<u>Elder Kevin R. Freeman</u>



THE FIFTH WAY: YHWH OF ABUNDANT FAITFULNESS!

Now <u>YHWH</u> descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of <u>YHWH</u>. ⁶ And <u>YHWH</u> passed before him and proclaimed, "<u>YHWH</u>, <u>YHWH</u> <u>El</u>, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and <u>truth</u>... (<u>EXODUS 34:5-6</u>)

How do define Faithfulness and how important is it to you?

DEFINITION OF FAITHFULNESS

- <u>DICTIONARY</u>-remaining loyal and steadfast, reliable, constant, true, devoted, trueblue, unswerving, unwavering, staunch, dedicated, committed, trustworthy, dependable, dutiful, an unwavering commitment to someone or something, someone who shows unchanging affection or support for a person or cause, often in face of difficulty or some temptation to desert. Loyalty refers to giving or showing firm and constant support or allegiance to a person or institution, or standing by one in face of criticism or hostility from others.
- <u>ABOUNDING</u>-H7227-*rab*-adjective-abundant, many, great, enough, multitude, much, exceedingly, full, large or vast.
- TRUTH-H571-*emet*-noun (root word H539-*aman*-verb-to support, to confirm, to be faithful, to uphold, to nourish, to make firm, to make sure, to make lasting, to be reliable, to trust, to believe in) faithfulness, true, right, assuredly, established, sure, verity, firmness, sureness, reliability, pillars, or supporters of the door.
 - G228-<u>alethinos</u>-adjective (root word G227-<u>alethes</u>-adjective-true, loving the truth, speaking the truth, truthful) true, <u>that which has not only the name</u> and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the ideas signified by the name, real, genuine, veracious, sincere, opposed to what is imperfect, defective, frail or uncertain.



- The word Faithfulness can also be more accurately translated Truth. In Scripture, you will see Mercy and Truth together over 30 times.
- It is important that we understand that Yahweh is always true to His Word. The strength of our covenant with God is based upon the Truth of His Word. God's abundant faithfulness is the foundation of our Covenant Relationship with Him in that it is impossible for God to lie.
- Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart (PROVERBS 3:3-KJV).
- For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation [is] to them an end of all strife. ¹⁷ Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed [it] by an oath: ¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: ¹⁹ Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; ²⁰ whither the forerunner is for us entered, [even] Jesus, made an High Priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec (HEBREWS 6:16-20-KJV).
- Yahweh uses His <u>Truth</u> (<u>Faithfulness</u>) to connect His acts of <u>Goodness</u> to the <u>Truth</u> in our hearts to bring change to our sinful and fallen nature. His <u>Truth</u> is the catalyst that changes our nature.
- In Marriage the vows expressed between the man and the woman are based upon the faithfulness of them both. If one is unfaithful it is often said that he or she has broken their vow.
- YHWH'S Abundant Goodness is balanced and supported by His Abundant Truth.

 YHWH'S Truth is what reveals His nature and His heart. In the Greek definition, it shows us that we can bear His Name and bear His Resemblance and yet not have His Nature and not share His Heart.



- Read the story of the Prodigal Son, Mathew Chapter 7
- For when the Gentiles, which have not the Law, do by nature the things contained in the Law, these, having not the Law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and [their] thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel (ROMANS 2:14-16-KJV).
- Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the Law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? ²⁷ And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the Law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the Law? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither [is that] circumcision, which is outward in the flesh (ROMANS 2:28-KJV).
- For <u>YHWH</u> [is] good; His <u>Mercy</u> [is] everlasting; and His <u>Truth</u> [endureth] to all generations (<u>PSALMS 100:5 KJV</u>).
- Trust ye in <u>YHWH</u> forever: For in <u>YHWH YHWH</u> [is] everlasting strength (<u>ISAIAH</u> <u>26:4 KJV</u>).
- Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, [that] the Everlasting <u>Elohim</u> God, <u>YHWH</u>, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? [there is] no searching of His understanding (<u>ISAIAH 40:28 KJV</u>).
- But <u>YHWH</u> [is] the true <u>Elohim</u>, He [is] the living <u>Elohim</u>, and an Everlasting King: at His wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation (<u>JEREMIAH 10:10 KJV</u>).
- Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures (JAMES 1:17-18-KJV).



- Wherewith shall I come before YHWH, [and] bow myself before the high Elohim? shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will YHWH be pleased with thousands of rams, [or] with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn [for] my transgression, the fruit of my body [for] the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth YHWH require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Elohim? (MICAH 6:6-8-KJV)
- Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O <u>YHWH</u>: let Thy Lovingkindness and Thy Truth continually preserve me (<u>PSALMS 40:11-KJV</u>).

* YHWH uses His Truth (Faithfulness) to connect His acts of Goodness to the Truth in our hearts to bring change to our sinful and fallen nature. His Truth is the catalyst that changes our nature. -Elder Kevin R. Freeman



THE SIXTH WAY: YHWH OF FORGIVENESS!

Now <u>YHWH</u> descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of <u>YHWH</u>. ⁶ And <u>YHWH</u> passed before him and proclaimed, "<u>YHWH</u>, <u>YHWH</u> <u>El</u>, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, <u>forgiving</u> iniquity and transgression and sin . . . (<u>EXODUS 34:5-7</u>)

Why is it so hard to forgive in relationships?

DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS

- **DICTIONARY**-to stop feeling angry or resentful towards someone for an offence, flaw, or mistake, no longer feel angry about or wish to punish, cancel a debt, pardon, excuse, exonerate, absolve, acquit, grant amnesty, make allowances for, stop feeling malice towards, harbor no grudge against, bury the hatchet with; let bygones be bygones, when someone to whom a wrong has been done makes a deliberate decision to put aside the feelings of anger and blame occasioned by that wrong.
- **FORGIVING-**H5375-*nasa*-verb-to lift up, to bear up, to carry off, take away, to support, to endure, to take up, to bear anyone's sin, to take away anyone's sin, to expiate or to pardon sin.
- G851-aphaireo-verb-to take away, to take from, to cut off, or to carry off.
- G863-<u>aphiemi</u>-verb-to send away, to leave, to let alone, to let go, to omit, to abandon
 or to leave destitute.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with



all your mind.' ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (MATTHEW 22:34-40)

- o "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which **YHWH** your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² that you may fear YHWH your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as YHWH God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.' 4"Hear, O Israel: YHWH our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love YHWH your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (**DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9**).
- o 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* YHWH the Lord (LEVITICUS 19:17-18).
- "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes . . . ¹⁵ "Moreover if your brother sins"



against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' ¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector . . . ³⁵ "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." (MATTHEW 18:6-35)

When you combine God's Way of Forgiveness with these Scriptures, then you will get a greater understanding of what it means to truly "Love Your Neighbor!" First, God commands us not to hate our brother in our hearts! Second, He commands the person offended to rebuke/confront the offender. This will take courage, ownership and initiative on behalf of the offended. God warned that if the offended doesn't do this, then they will share in the sin of the offender and hatred in the heart will show up in one of two ways: resentment or revenge! So, rebuking/ confronting is the key to loving, forgiving and reconciliation!

Remember, if you choose to forgive, then you must accept that there may not be reconciliation! This is where love leaves room for choice on their part. Another key to forgiveness is the understanding and accepting that people who owe us respect, honor and justice are broke themselves. They don't have enough for themselves, let alone for ourselves! Forgiveness takes this fact into an account and refuses to continually hope to receive from them what is due us. Instead, we must look to our Heavenly Father who is the source of all good gifts! Human beings are channels to what we need, but God is the ultimate source! So, we unashamedly acknowledge what we need of, and we choose to change our pursuits from bankrupt people to the Abundant YHWH! This is key!



Being able to distinguish between a goal and a desire is key to sanity. Remember, a goal is something that is wanted that requires 100% effort on your part to getting it done! A desire, on the other hand, requires the participation of someone else! The proper behavior for a goal is action, while the proper behavior for a desire is asking. We must not confuse the two! If we do, then this will lead us into insanity!

* God confronts us to keep hatred out of His heart, to forgive us of our sins and to hopefully reconcile us to Himself. We should follow in His footsteps in doing the same in our world of influence! -Pastor Terrence Bridges



THE SEVENTH WAY: YHWH OF ZEALOUSY!

Now <u>YHWH</u> descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of <u>YHWH</u>. ⁶ And <u>YHWH</u> passed before him and proclaimed, "<u>YHWH</u>, <u>YHWH</u> <u>El</u> . . . ¹⁴ For you shall worship no other god, (for <u>YHWH</u>, whose Name *is* <u>Zealous</u>, *is* a <u>Zealous</u> <u>El</u>)" (<u>EXODUS</u> 34:5-14)

What does it mean to be jealous of someone?

DEFINITION OF ZEALOUSY

- <u>DICTIONARY</u>-zealous-showing great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective (synonyms-fervent, ardent, passionate, impassioned, devoted, committed, dedicated, sincere, wholehearted, zestful, purposeful, intense, fierce, antonyms-apathetic or indifferent). Jealous-fiercely protective of one's right or one's possessions or demanding of faithfulness and exclusive worship/relationship.
- <u>JEALOUS</u>-H7067-<u>qanna</u>-adjective (root word H7065-<u>qana-</u>verb-zealous or envious) not bearing any rival or the sever avenger of departure from Himself, only of God.
 - o G2207-*zelotes*-noun (root word G2204-*zeloo*-verb-to boil with heat, be hot, used of boiling anger, love, zeal of what is good or bad, fervent in spirit, said of zeal for what is good. G2205-*zelos*-noun-excitement of mind, ardor, fervor of spirit or defending of anything. G2206-*zeloo*-verb-to burn with zeal, to be heated or to boil with jealousy, to be zealous in the pursuit of good, to desire earnestly, to pursue, to exert oneself for one that he may not be torn from) one burning with zeal, a zealot, used of God as jealous of any rival and sternly vindicating His control, most eagerly desirous of, zealous for a thing.



- The fact that God identifies Himself as jealous may seem puzzling at first because of the confusion with the word envy. Envy is wanting, desiring or lusting after someone else's stuff. Jealousy, on the other hand, is loving, desiring and protecting of one's own possessions. He demands fidelity, won't tolerate any rival and will eventually avenge any departure from Himself. This Way of God is a result of His Fierce Love that runs deeply and passionately! He is jealous for us and we should reciprocate the same jealously with Him!
- In Luke 15, Jesus revealed the heart of the Father in the Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son. The passion of the Father was so thick that it could be cut with a knife!
- In Revelation 4:11 lets us know that we were made for His pleasure. It very easy to think that God would not love us like this seeing we are only 1 of about 80 billion people who have lived on the earth since Adam. But each one of us needs to accept the reality that God aches for each and every one of us! There is a place in His heart that can only be filled by us. Take ownership of this fact and live accordingly!

*The highest form of Worship is imitation! We were designed to be like whom we admire! YHWH gave Adam and Eve an Image to emulate before giving them Dominion to execute! -Pastor Terrence L. Bridges