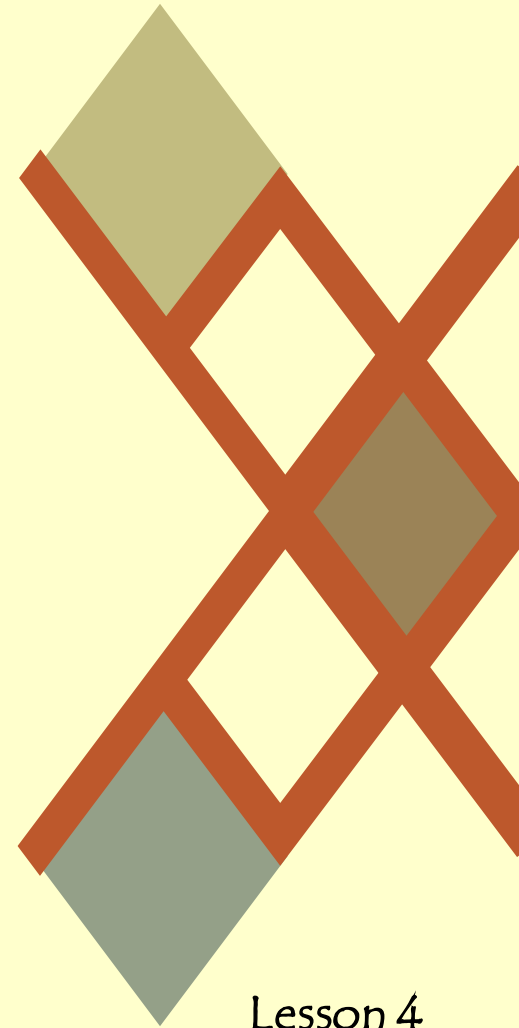


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AN
ACCEPTABLE
SACRIFICE
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JoLynn Gower
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217-493-6151
jgower@guardingthetruth.org



Lesson 4

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **1 John 2:3-6** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
- **Romans 8:28-30** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

DEFINITIONS

- Foreknew: *proginosko*: to know ahead of time; God is omniscient and omnitemporal (God created time)
- Predestined: *proorizo*: to limit in advance: requires a limiting factor
- Called: *kaleo*: to invite; requires an RSVP
- Justified: *dikaioo*: to declare to be righteous
- Glorified: *doxazo*: to consider as glorious
- **Romans 10:1-4** Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

POVERTY OF SPIRIT

- **Matthew 5:1-3** When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- If you don't realize that you are a sinner in need of a savior, then everything else has no eternal meaning
- **Titus 3:4-7** But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

WE ARE CHANGED

- **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Transformed: *metamorphoo*: to be changed or converted
- A believer must undergo a radical change within his inner being in order to escape the world. The believer must be transformed and changed inwardly. His real self—his very nature, essence, personality, inner being, his inner man—must be changed.
- Renewing: *anakainosis*: to renovate: the human mind has been corrupted by sin; the Holy Spirit aids the process
- **The mind is part of the soul; the brain is part of the body**

CONFORMING TO CHRIST'S IMAGE

- **Genesis 1:27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female....
- The image of man changed when sin entered: God isn't sinful; man now was sinful; his image was skewed by sin
- **Genesis 5:3** When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of *a son* in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.
- Adam's sinful image was passed on to his son
- **2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
- **Romans 8:29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son,

CRUCIBLE OF SUFFERING

➤ **1 Peter 1:3-7** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

➤ **Tested: *dokimazo*: to refine or assay**

RUN THE RACE

- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
- **Disqualified: *adokimos*: not standing the test, unapproved, not useful**
- **“disqualification” results in not becoming everything that God desires for us to do**

WHAT YOU APPROVE

- **Philippians 1:8-11** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may *approve* the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
- **Approve: dokimazo: prove; acknowledge at correct; as a result, be refined**
- **2 Corinthians 4:7-10** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

SUCCESS DEPENDS ON US

- Whether or not the refining succeeds depends on us!
- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- We can choose refinement, or we can choose to be bitter
- There is a price for the latter
- **Jeremiah 6:29-30** The bellows blow fiercely, The lead is consumed by the fire; In vain the refining goes on, But the wicked are not separated. They call them rejected silver, Because the LORD has rejected them.

PERIL OF A HARDENED HEART

- **Psalm 103:19** The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.
- **Mark 6:49-52** But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid." Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, for they had not gained any insight from the *incident of the loaves*, but their heart was hardened.
- **Hardened:** *poroo*: petrified; hardened as stone
- A renewed mind will process difficulties differently than a mind that is set on the flesh
- We need to practice mind renewal to avoid heart hardening!

IF I WERE GOD, I WOULDN'T.....

➤ **Romans 11:33-36** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

➤ **Isaiah 55:8-9** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares 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.”

**GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY
RULES OVER ALL**