

The purpose of God's word is not to add something to how we think, but rather to transform how we think,

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)
 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Time Time Time

1 Peter 1:3-21 (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you,
 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for **salvation ready to be revealed in the last Time**

Yet in the future

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory **at the revelation of Jesus Christ**,
 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

Yet in the future

9 **receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.**

Living with such persuasion, as if it's already been obtained

10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,
 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and **the glories that would follow.**

12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven— **things which angels desire to look into**

Why would man having never seen himself of everything that he has known for an eternal promise

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ**;

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy **in all your**

Universal statement, includes everything we do

conduct

16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work,

Rewards at the judgment seat of Christ

conduct yourselves throughout the Time of your stay here in fear.

With the highest regard for what is written

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, **from your aimless conduct** received by tradition from your fathers,
 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you
 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

How do we Spend Time?

When we spend something we **exchange** one thing for something else. We give something up to receive something else. It's an **exchange**!

However we choose to **Spend Time**, we are **exchanging** something of lesser value for something of greater value.

No price

No price can be given for you eternal life (or our justification) it's completely free.

Price

Christ came not just to give us eternal life, He came to also give the abundant life. For the abundant life, we have to be willing to exchange that which is temporal, for that which is eternal. **The word of God.** All of God's directions in His word, have eternal ramifications.

The abundant life is: an ever increasing capacity to appreciate God. It's a life filled with zealous obedience to doctrine ever mindful of our reward at the judgment seat of Christ

God is our designer. He tells us how we are to operate, so that we can have the best possible results in the age in which we are living; with the end result being an eternal reward, at the judgment seat of Christ

Not only does Christ teach: time is short for each individual,

1 Peter 1:24-25 (NKJV)

24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,
 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever.

But He also teaches us that time could be cut even shorter; He could return at any moment!

The illustration of the **athlete** is to give us the picture that we are not only in preparation for, but also competing for something of exceeding great value; so much so that we are willing to give up all the things of this life to obtain that exceeding great prize; which we will receive at the judgment seat of Christ.

The Dog in a Mansion

It doesn't matter how much we have invested to obtain what we desire in this life, cast it all aside for something far far greater. Cast it all aside, treat all these so-called precious things in this life with disdain: **not as cat rocks in the litter box, or as gourmet food!**

But alas it's a matter of volition. What is your preferred desire; and what system will you employ to obtain that desire?

Each day is another opportunity to make that choice, we're going to make it right now and we're going to make it again this evening. Every time we give thought to it we make a choice.

God is relentless. God never stops giving opportunity to the children of Israel. Every moment, every time we give thought, we have another opportunity to choose that system of thought that will best suit the conclusion that we prefer to arrive at

The purpose of the church is to make disciples. A disciple is one who has set their determination to learn and obey God's word over everything else.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NKJV)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Before the fall, the human spirit was united with the Holy Spirit. As part of man's essential makeup; man was trichotomous, he had physical body, soul and spirit. This three-part makeup of man rendered him a complete man, enabling him to perceive and understand and apply **God's direction** (otherwise known as **doctrine** or **teachings**). These teachings provided the source of life to the spiritual man!!

When Adam fell, in his rebellion against **doctrine**, he not only lost the human spirit (which means, he died spiritually) and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, he also lost the energy source for eternal life, which is **the word of God**.

Man lost a vital component necessary to function as a human; **the human spirit**.

God's solution is Jesus Christ

John 3:5-6 (NKJV)

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
 6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

That which is born of the Spirit of God is the spirit of man

That which is born of a natural man, is a natural man; all unregenerate man

Salvation Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

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2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of**

faith

God-given abilities

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
 7 or ministry, let us use it for our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Authority Structure

1.

Focus and the order of authority:

The answer or the solution to the problem is the polar opposite of the arrogance and pride of the sin; and that is **humility**.

The willingness and desire to submit ultimately to the authority of God's word.

Authority structure:

Colossians 3:16-22 (NKJV)

Unless the word of God dwells in us richly, we don't have the knowledge base to teach and admonish

16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And **whatever you do in word or deed**, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as it fitting in the Lord.

19 **Husbands**, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

20 **Fathers**, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

21 **Fathers**, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

Submitting to the rich dwelling of Jesus Christ's teachings

Wives submit to husband

Children submitting to parents, both father and mother

There is an authority structure built into the nature of marriage and family as a divine institution.

When sin entered, it made it extremely difficult to apply these principles within our lives because of the sin nature itself. The sin nature is an inner corruption that permeates everything, and its desire is to satisfy its own selfish interests.

But Scripture teaches us, true changes can take place.

2.