

**The answers we need come easier when we know there are questions.  
From questions come answers.....from which come more questions....**

**Walking with Jesus: A continuous journey  
The ultimate Quid Pro Quo (I will....if you...)**



**We are all Sojourners**

Travelers who have not reached our final destination.

## Let the journey continue (I will....if you...)

Getting started is sometimes the worst part. I know, having agonized over writing this first sentence for a long time. My story includes a lot of years when Jesus carried me in between my acceptance of him and subsequent return (prodigal son, so to speak). The return to Him began in answer to my prayer to come and be with Him about 4 years ago. His answer is another story, but it prompted a renewed relationship that has grown with each day. It became clear that earlier most of my attention had been paid to the “I will” (God) part of a relationship with God, and the “If you” (me) part was not given enough. The result was wasted years and needless turmoil because the need to both love and fear God as the Bible instructs us to do was not embraced and developed.

I have written down here some of the questions I had and the some sources for answers I encountered in the process of living in this renewed relationship with much emphasis on scripture relating to “I will/If you” teachings. This is done in the hope that it may be of help to others.

The subject here is information that may be useful as you get started with a new life, and what may be expected along the way. The heavy emphasis is on getting started, and therefore is not exhaustive, but is rather brief and to the point. The Bible can and does give information and instruction about the same topic in more places than one, and should be aggressively explored.

For your reading pleasure other than the Bible, there are countless books and articles that range from short and sweet to mind-boggling dissertations on every conceivable interpretation of each word in scripture. It is important to gain a good foundation in scripture before tackling some of this gaggle of info, as some of it may not be based on Biblical truths. Having said that, there are good publications designed to help study the Bible.

My suggestion here is to seek counsel of the Holy Spirit through prayer and meditation as part of the process.

The material presented is based on some assumptions. All scripture is in Italics and from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.

1. The Bible is **inspired** by God: (*2 Timothy 3:16-17, All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*), is **infallible** and **free from error**: (*2 Peter:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*)

2. Based on the first assumption, the Bible is the primary source for all information relating to building a new life. There are no wasted or unnecessary words in the Bible.
3. Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit for guidance and comfort because as humans we are unable to do God's will on our own.
4. The Holy Spirit will never contradict, add to, or take away from what is written in the Bible.

**The following questions became the basis for my search. I can't resist a lame attempt at humor here and say, "we report, you decide".**

### **Who can be saved?**

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (We can't earn this because it is actually a gift we can't do anything to deserve on our own.)*

Also:

*Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (No matter how hard we may try, there is no way to fool God.)*

Also:

*James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder*

It is important that we look into all context on every subject with diligence in order to complete our journey successfully. This will be discussed in more detail later.

### **How are we saved?**

*John 6:44-45 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. (Remember the tugging on your heart to come to Jesus? That is what this is talking about.)*

Also:

*Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast. (Nuff said, don't you think?)*

## Can we lose our salvation?

Not being qualified to say yes or no with complete certainty I am determined not to intentionally test God from now on. A godly man I learn a lot from puts it this way, "I am always quick to repent".

Here is some food for thought.

*Matthew 13:3-9 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."*

Because Jesus later gave the meaning of this, and because I believe there are no unnecessary words in the Bible, this is a very important message to us:

*Matthew 13:18-23 Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.*

Also:

We can come back after falling away

*Luke 15:11-32 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got*

*up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.*

*Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'*

I can personally bear witness that this is a wonderful example of God's patience and mercy. But look out.....

*Matthew 24:36-43 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.*

The prodigal son (and I) would not have had such a shot at a happy ending had we not returned before our death.

I conclude this discussion on the possibility of losing one's salvation with the mention of three Kings of Israel: Saul, Ahab, and David. You can find the whole story of the kings of Israel in the Old Testament books of Samuel, I and II Kings, and I and II Chronicles.

Saul was the first king of Israel, came from humble beginnings, and later his heart became filled with pride and stayed that way to the end. He sinned against God and "fell from grace". That means he was anointed by God, who later withdrew from him.

Ahab, whose wife was Jezebel, sinned against God, repented, and then fell away again.

David was a man “after God’s own heart”. He sinned against God, but continuously repented until the end. He did receive severe punishment, but was also honored when Jesus was referred to as the son of David. (His human side)

I believe I will see David in Heaven. Every indication is that Saul and Ahab may be in some deep trouble.

As the Apostle Paul put it:

*Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

### **Okay I believe, now what’s my part?**

This is where we look at what it means to co-operate with God. This co-operation can be looked at as active participation in the “I will/If you” process. Just thinking about it leaves out the part having to do with works.

*Romans 8: 16-17 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

This co-operation will do two things. First it will ensure our salvation, and second it will enable us to do his will and accomplish what he has planned for us to do.

We need to build our new life on a solid foundation

*Matthew 7:24,25 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

This foundation could be compared to a spiritual version of the human skeleton. Both support everything we see or observe about the way we look or act, without being visible. We know they are there, and can tell when there are flaws. Without either, what they support is useless and unrecognizable.

The physical body is a major subject of Medical Science. The spiritual foundation is a major subject of the Bible, with assistance from the Holy Spirit.

Also we should be aware of:

*Matthew 26-27 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*

And Also:

*Matthew 7:15-16 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?*

This means that we can learn to tell if someone is on solid ground or not by observing their **lifestyle**, regardless of what they **say**.

A little more about ensuring our salvation, the first part of our co-operation. There are numerous references to this in the Bible.

The Apostle Peter puts it this way:

#### **Making One's Calling and Election Sure**

*2 Peter 1:3-11 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

You may hear this referred to as the ladder of faith.

Also:

The author of Hebrews says:

*Hebrews 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid*

*food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

The reference here is to spiritual growth, and clearly indicates we are to keep learning and growing as long as we live. That is our job.

Doing our job leads to the second part of our co-operation which is works. The subject of works vs. faith has been discussed, analyzed, and dissected since the First Century. Much of this debate centers around writings of James and Paul. There is also the issue of references to our being judged “according to our works”.

I personally believe that works are the visible and apparent results that stem from the desire to do God’s will as a result of salvation by His grace through faith. It would seem obvious that anyone who receives such an un-describable gift would simply want to do works.

But let us see just a glimpse of what the Bible says about this.

James:

*James 2:14-20 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?*

Paul:

*Galatians 2:16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*

I agree with those who say there is no conflict here when taken in context. Also if salvation is a gift from God, no amount of works will bring it about.

Jesus:

*Matthew 13:23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.*

To me this means he received salvation and as a result produced good works.

Also:

**The Dead Are Judged according to what they have done**

*Revelation 20:11-13 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.*

This is only a fraction of references involving works and faith. James and Paul together and separately provide a detailed look at this, and of course provide fodder for lots of material written on the subject.

### **Is this going to be easy?**

No, and here is why.

*Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.*

This means if our family does not approve of our relationship with Jesus, we should still follow him. He actually tells us this will happen.

*Luke 12:49-53 I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.*

It is not all gloom and doom....

*Matthew 10: 29-30 Jesus said, Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.*

Also:

*Matthew 19:24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.*

Riches are worldly, and we must have a Biblical world view.

*Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

Also:

*Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

But we have commandments to follow and some really great promises.

*Matthew 22:36-40 Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

The Law and the Prophets means the Old Testament.

And if we follow the commands, we get the promises.

*John 14:15-16 If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.*

Also:

*Matthew 6:25-33 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?*

*And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. but seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Also:

*Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

Well..you notice we are told to do something in order to get these things. If I were able to give an assignment here, I would say go and find all the “I will.... if you...” references in the Bible. This is a task I am still working on, by the way.

### **What about the real crux of the matter?**

Maybe Ecclesiastes chapter 12 can give us a glimmer.

*13 Now all has been heard;  
here is the conclusion of the matter:  
Fear God and keep his commandments,  
for this is the whole duty of man.*

*14 For God will bring every deed into judgment,  
including every hidden thing,  
whether it is good or evil.*

So.....God will welcome us to be with him.....If we are faithfully **keeping** his commandments.

*Matthew 25:20-21 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

There is plenty more that could and should be said here. There is a reference in the Bible for everything we need to do in order to be blessed in this life and the next. We need only to commit to reading and learning. And lastly:

*James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*

However:

We need to be earnest.

*James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

We can also benefit from listening to and learning from others among us.

*Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.*

*Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

## **Appendix I: You are not alone if:**

**You have trouble understanding everything you read or hear, and wonder if you can do what is needed.**

*Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

**You feel the need to verify what you read and hear.**

*Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

**You feel unimportant.**

*Matthew 18:12-14 What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.*

**You feel worthless.**

*Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*

**You feel others are better than you and are more deserving.**

We should note that while God valued us enough to send Jesus to die for us, we might not want to place value on ourselves that is greater than others.

God is not a “respector of persons”. This means we are all equally important to him.

*Acts 10:34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism.*

And neither should we.

*James 2:1 My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.*

Humility is always a good approach. In fact it should be integral to any approach.

*Luke 17:7-10 Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'*

### **You feel weak and helpless.**

The Apostle Paul was glad to be weak. It is all a matter of perspective.

*2 Corinthians 12:9-10 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

All of us have these feelings to some degree. The thing to remember is God is always with us.

*Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

We have a mighty protector.

*Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

### **You are reluctant to forgive some people.**

This may be hard, but is necessary. Jesus said we need to forgive, that is enough for me.

*Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

This is why we may also want to seek out those we may have offended and ask their forgiveness, not so much as for our sake, but for theirs.

## **Appendix II. Terms and attempted definitions.**

You can get definitions (and sometimes extensive variations of them) everywhere. Listed below are some that I had a vague idea about, and spent a lot of time nodding my head when engaged in conversations or lessons where these words were part of the context. The result was sometimes missing the meaning of some of the other context. Ever been there?

### **Faith**

The God given ability to believe in what cannot be proven. The essential kick-starter and sustainer.

*Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

Jesus talks about faith

*Luke 17:1-6 Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"*

*He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.*

### **Grace**

God given favors we do not deserve that allow us to do his will. This is necessary because we are unable to do this on our own.

*Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

God gives grace, his part, and is combined with our faith so we can do ours.

### **Agape (love)**

This is more of a commitment than an emotion. The commitment is to always conduct ourselves in a way that helps, rather than harms, everyone including our enemies. The Apostle Paul puts it this way:

*1 Corinthians:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

## **World View**

Selfish desires that look only to our life here with little thought about eternity.

The Apostle Paul sums up the results of a worldview:

*2 Timothy 3:1-7 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.*

## **Biblical World View**

Unselfish desire to do the will of God in this life while looking forward to eternity.  
God is Love. See Agape above.

## **Justification**

The act of Jesus dying on the cross so that we may become acceptable to God. This is from God because we are not able to do it ourselves.

*Romans 3:23-25 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished*

## **Sanctification**

The acts of setting ourselves apart from the world (trading a world view for a Biblical view). This is done by co-operating with God, and is part of the “I will... If you....” Equation and continues as long as we live in this world.

*2 Corinthians 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.*

Also:

*James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded*

We need to also read what James says before telling us to come near to God. This is again part of that “I will... if you” thing.

*James 4:4-7 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

This is great. We get a double whammy. God draws near and the devil flees.

## **Joy**

Comes from our relationship with God and is present in good times and bad. It is one of several “Fruits of the Spirit”.

*James 1:2-3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.*

## **Hope**

What we look forward to that has not already happened. It is based on Jesus and his promises.

The Apostle Peter puts it this way.

*2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

## **Holy**

This word is used to describe many things we see or think. God is Holy by his nature, along with all that belongs to him. For us holiness means belonging to God and becoming more like Him. We are holy because we are His. Nothing in us makes us holy without Him. This means that holiness is always positive, and we have been set apart for His purpose.

## Appendix III: Sources

Each of us has areas of interest and may even be driven to seek information for our personal growth. This usually means we need to personalize our choices from a vast sea of information.

Listed here are some places I found useful for my personal journey. Maybe they can be useful to you as well.

1. First and most obvious is the Bible. Choose from accredited versions.
2. Second and of great value is communion with Jesus and the Holy Spirit through prayer and meditation. If you seek this, it will come.
3. Get planted in a New Testament church. There you will find meaningful fellowship with lots of individual and group opportunities to grow.
4. Book Stores like Mardels and Barnes and Noble.
5. Web Sites like [www.BibleGateway.com](http://www.BibleGateway.com) where you can look up bible verses that come from several versions, and [www.GotQuestions.org](http://www.GotQuestions.org) where you can look up and read answers to a lot of common questions.
6. [www.messengerinternational.org](http://www.messengerinternational.org) is operated by John and Lisa Bevere and has books, videos, audios, etc. They are talented, and I believe anointed, authors of materials that inspire Christians the world over. I have nearly all their books, and have read most of them twice.

**‘Be in the right Place,  
Do the right thing,  
Listen to the right voice’**  
Pastor Jamie Howard

By John Oliver  
a grateful and unworthy servant