

*2021 North Seattle Bible Students Convention — Bro. Brett Blackwell*

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**Falling Away**  
**& Standing Firm**

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March 14, 2021

“Keep **watching** and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”  
— Matthew 26:41 (NASB)

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

— 2 Timothy 3:1

Be of sober spirit, be on the **alert**.

— 1 Peter 5:8

Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence** to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

— 2 Peter 1:10 (KJV)

Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed** lest he fall.

— 1 Corinthians 10:12

**Take care**, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that **falls away** from the living God.

— Hebrews 3:12

**Take heed** that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them:

otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

— Matthew 6:1 (KJV)

“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap.”

— Luke 21:34

“But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

— Luke 21:36

“Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness.”

— Luke 11:35

“...If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

— Matthew 6:23



But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith...

— 1 Timothy 4:1

Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY."

Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.

Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

— 1 Corinthians 10:6-10

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Do not be **idolaters**, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." (Verse 7)

Nor let us **act immorally**, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. (Verse 8)

Nor let us **try the Lord**, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (Verse 9)

Nor **grumble**, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (Verse 10)

— 1 Corinthians 10:6-10

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."

For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?

And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

— Hebrews 3:12,15-19

For in the case of those who have once been **enlightened** and have **tasted of the heavenly gift** and have been **made partakers of the Holy Spirit,**

and have **tasted the good word of God** and the **powers of the age to come,**

and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

— Hebrews 6: 4-6

For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

— Hebrews 10:14,18

BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;  
AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO  
PLEASURE IN HIM.

— Hebrews 10:38

“For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,”  
declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live.”

— Ezekiel 18:32

“The heart is more deceitful than all else And is  
desperately sick...”

— Jeremiah 17:9



Let no one say when he is tempted,  
“I am being tempted by God” ...

But each one is tempted when he  
is carried away and enticed by his  
own **lust**.

Then when lust has conceived, it  
gives birth to **sin**;

and when sin is accomplished, it  
brings forth **death**.

— James 1:13-15



Enticed and  
Drawn Away By

**Lust (Longing)**



If Allowed to  
Continue Results In

**Sin**



As Allowed to  
Continue Results In

**Death**

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the **boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

— 1 John 2:15,16

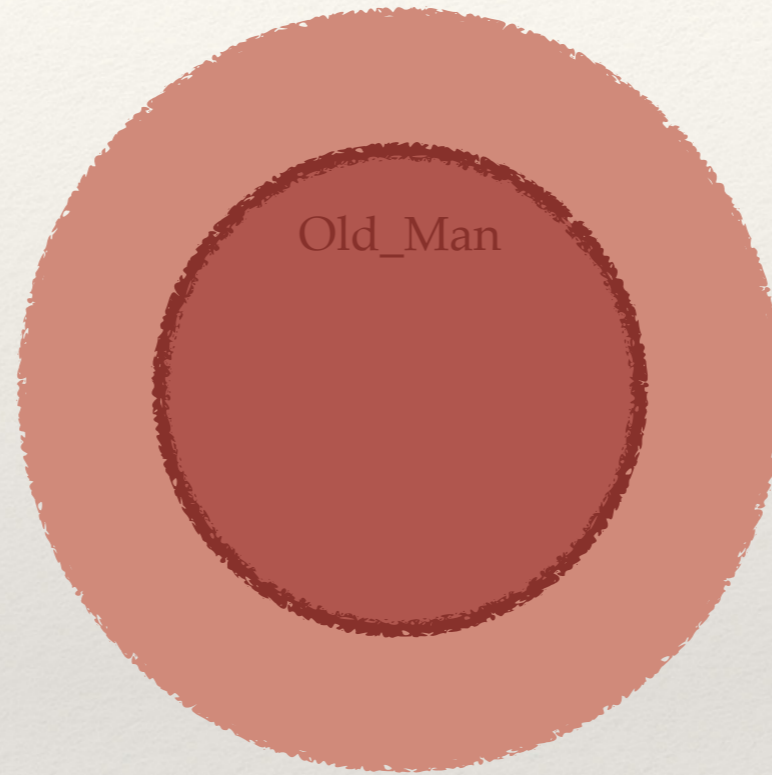
*These three points of attack by the great enemy are the points which the Lord would have us guard with unwearied vigilance.*

— R. 1859

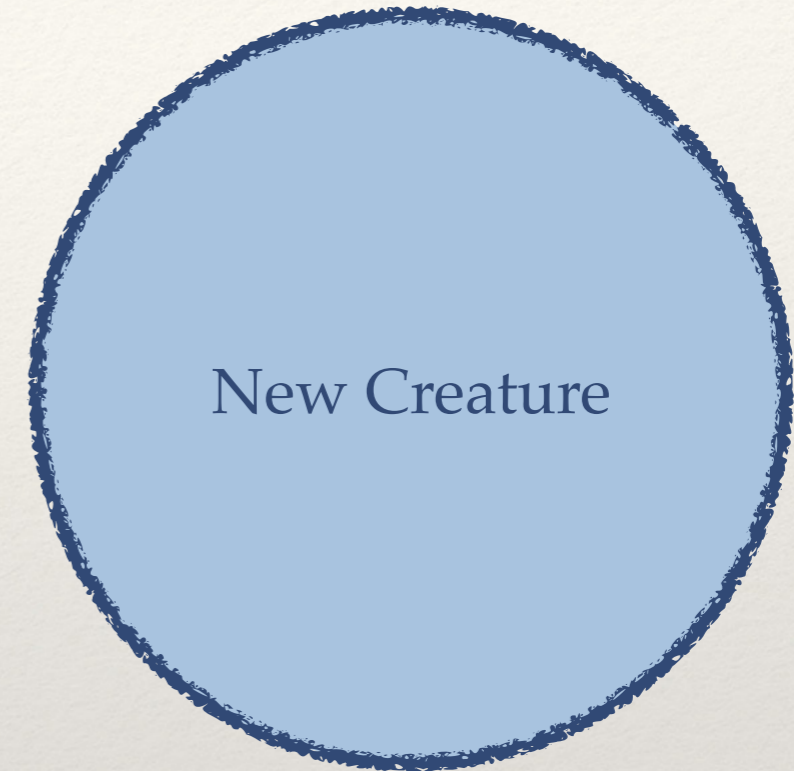
Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:  
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become  
new.

— 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

# Old "Man" in the Flesh



Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. — Romans 6:11



Dead - Old Will or "Man" in the Flesh

Alive - New Reckoned Will



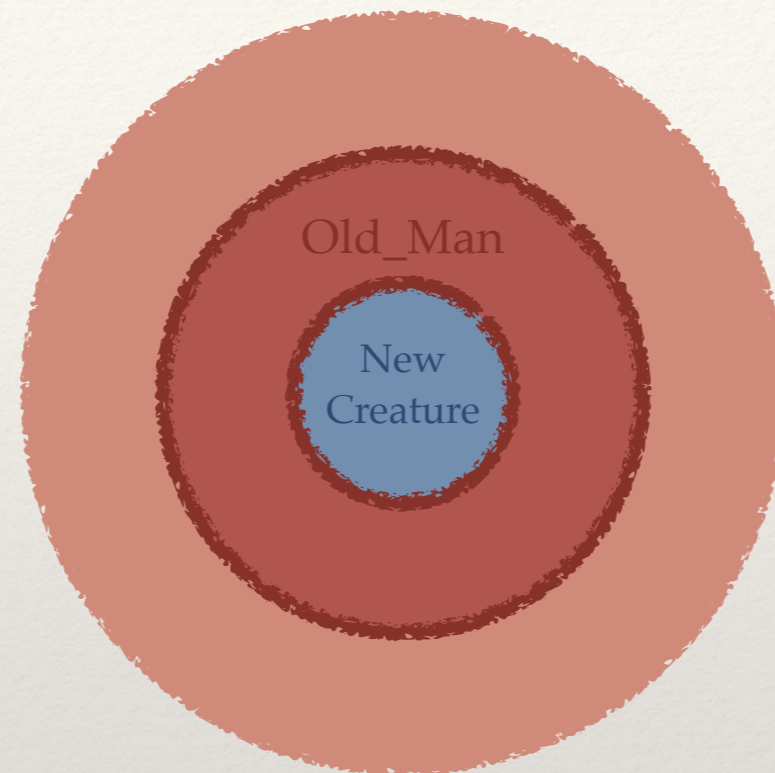
...in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

— Ephesians 4:22-24

...So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. — Romans 7:25



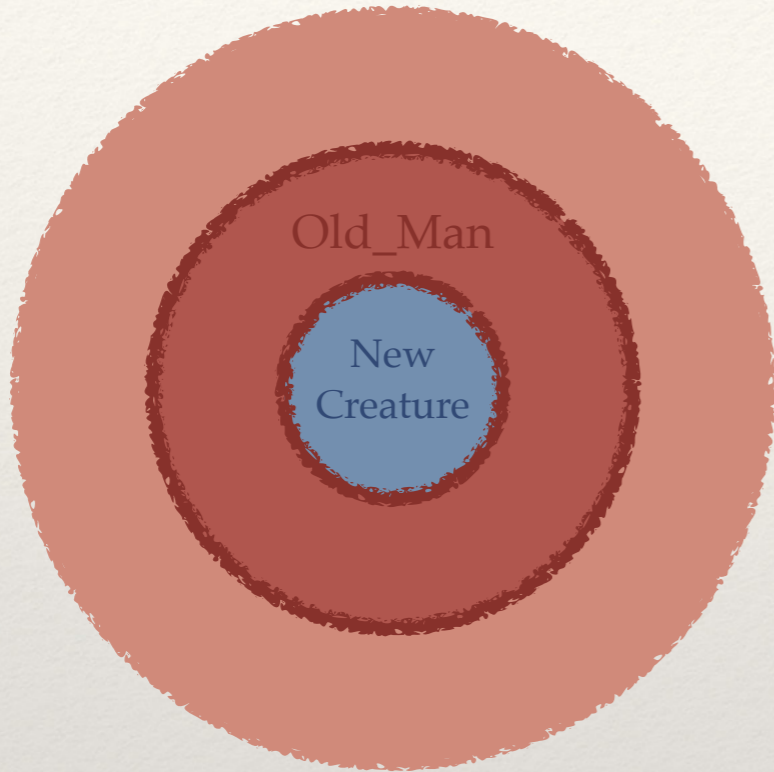
New Creature, within Old "Man" in the Flesh



But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

— Romans 8:11

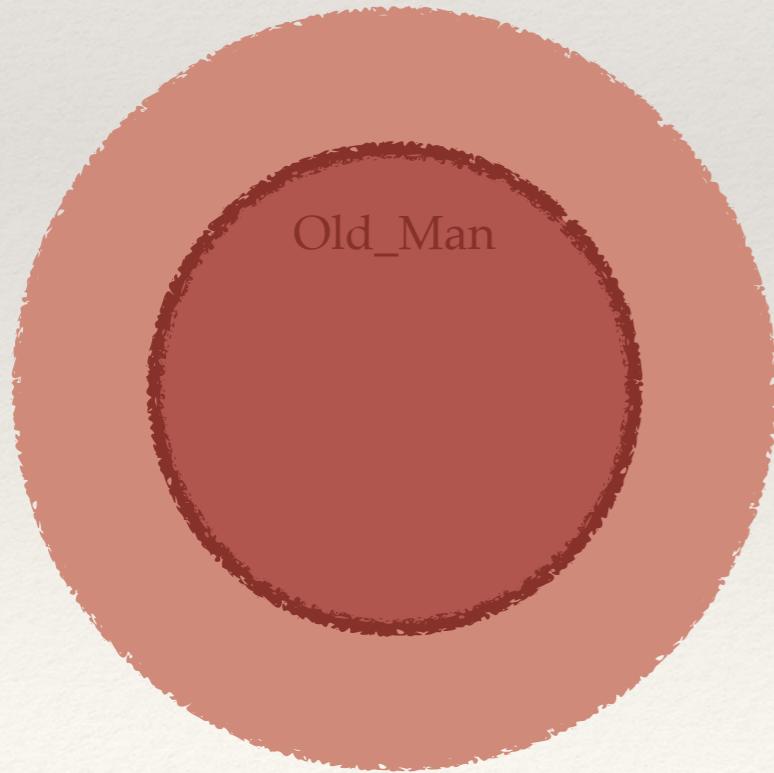




Heaven



Old\_Man



Earth

## Drawing Near to God (James 4:8)

New Creature

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

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.

— Romans 12:1,2

**Fellowship with the World (James 4:4)**

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

— Ephesians 6:11,12

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,  
in which you formerly walked according to the course of  
this world, according to the prince of the power of the air,  
of the spirit that is now working in the sons of  
disobedience.

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our  
flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,  
and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

— Ephesians 2:1-3

## Ephesians 2

Devil

according to the prince of the power of the air

*Verse 2*

World

the course of this world... the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience

*Verse 2*

Flesh

We too... lived in the lusts of our flesh

*Verse 3*

...dead in your trespasses and sins...

*Verse 1*

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

and do not give the devil an opportunity.

— Ephesians 4:25-27

Be subject, then, to God; stand up against the devil, and he will flee from you.

— James 4:7 (YLT)

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

— 1 Peter 5:8,9



But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

— Galatians 4:9

“Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

“Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.”

— Matthew 24:17,18

"Remember Lot's wife.

"Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

— Luke 17:32,33

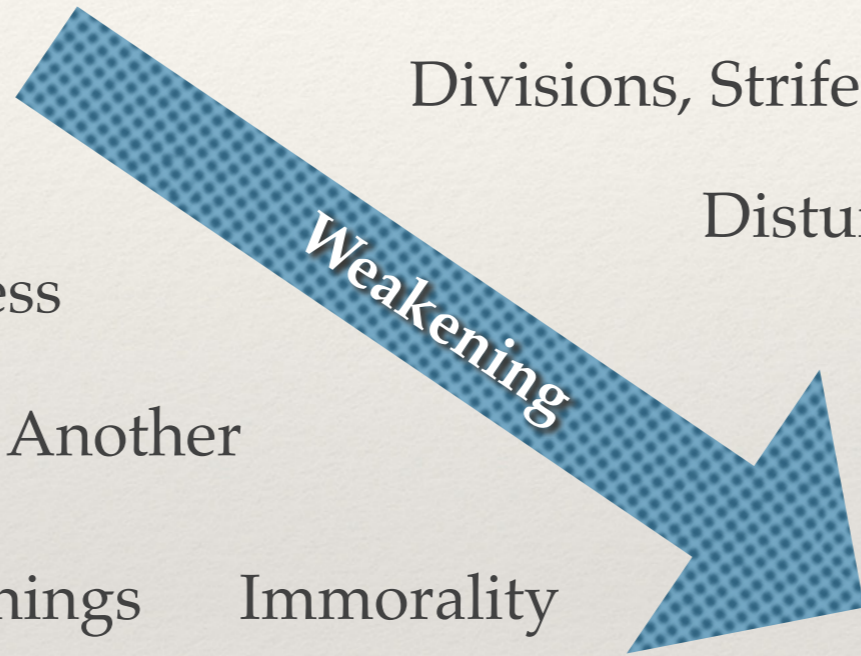
*The Lord's people, when they flee, shall not covetously look back to the things which, under divine condemnation, are to pass away.*

— R. 4706

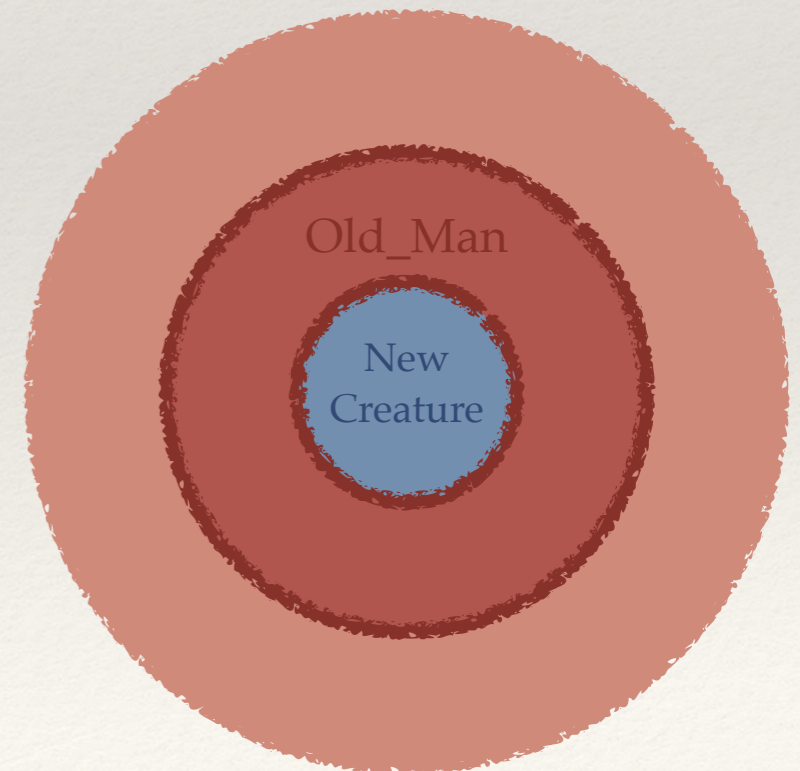
# Attacks on New Man



Roaring Lion    Angel of Light    Spiritism  
Rebellion    Doctrines of Devils    Idolaters  
Deceivers    Deceitful Spirits    False Brethren  
Dogs, Evil Workers    Affliction, Persecution  
Divisions, Strife    Enemies of the Cross  
Disturbers Distorting the Gospel



Lust of Flesh    Worldliness  
Lust of Eyes    Judging One Another  
Wiles of Devil    Elemental Things    Immorality  
Prison    Stumbling Blocks    Pride (Puffed Up)  
Mockers, "Where is the Promise of His Presence?"  
Unfruitful Deeds of Darkness    Hearers and Not Doers  
Pride of Life    Turning Back    Temptation



Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

— 2 Peter 3:17 (KJV)

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

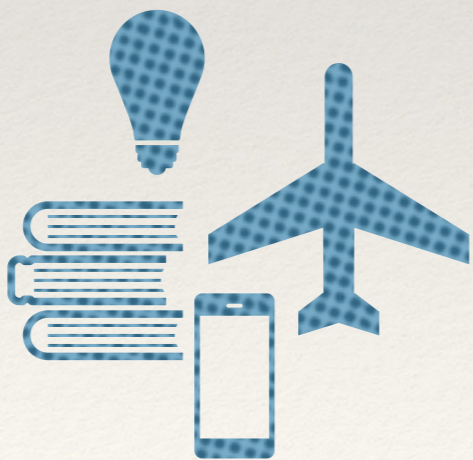
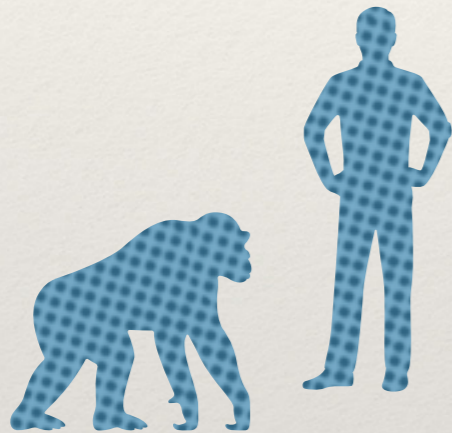
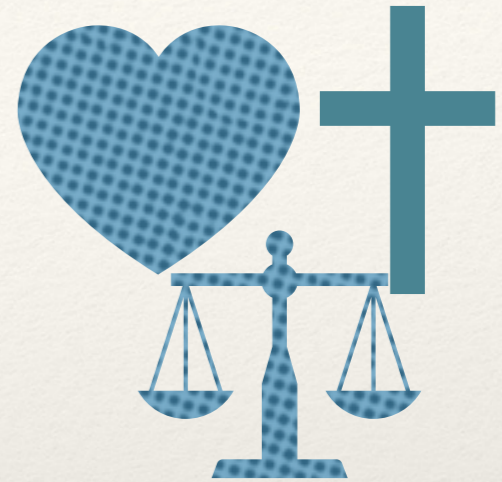
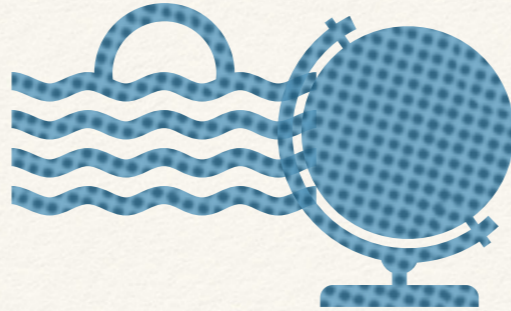
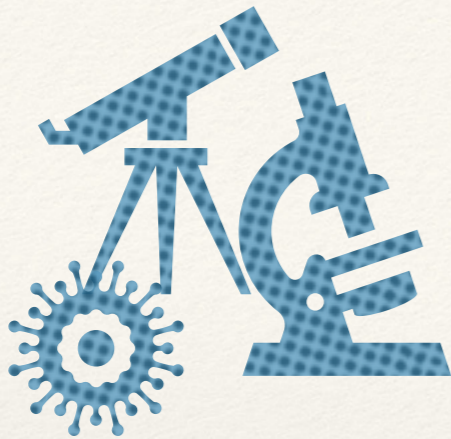
‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.

‘So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

‘Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.’

— Revelation 3:14-17





God?

Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, **so that no one will fall**, through following the same example of disobedience.

— Hebrews 4:11



Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having **escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**

Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence**, in your **faith** supply **moral excellence**, and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**,

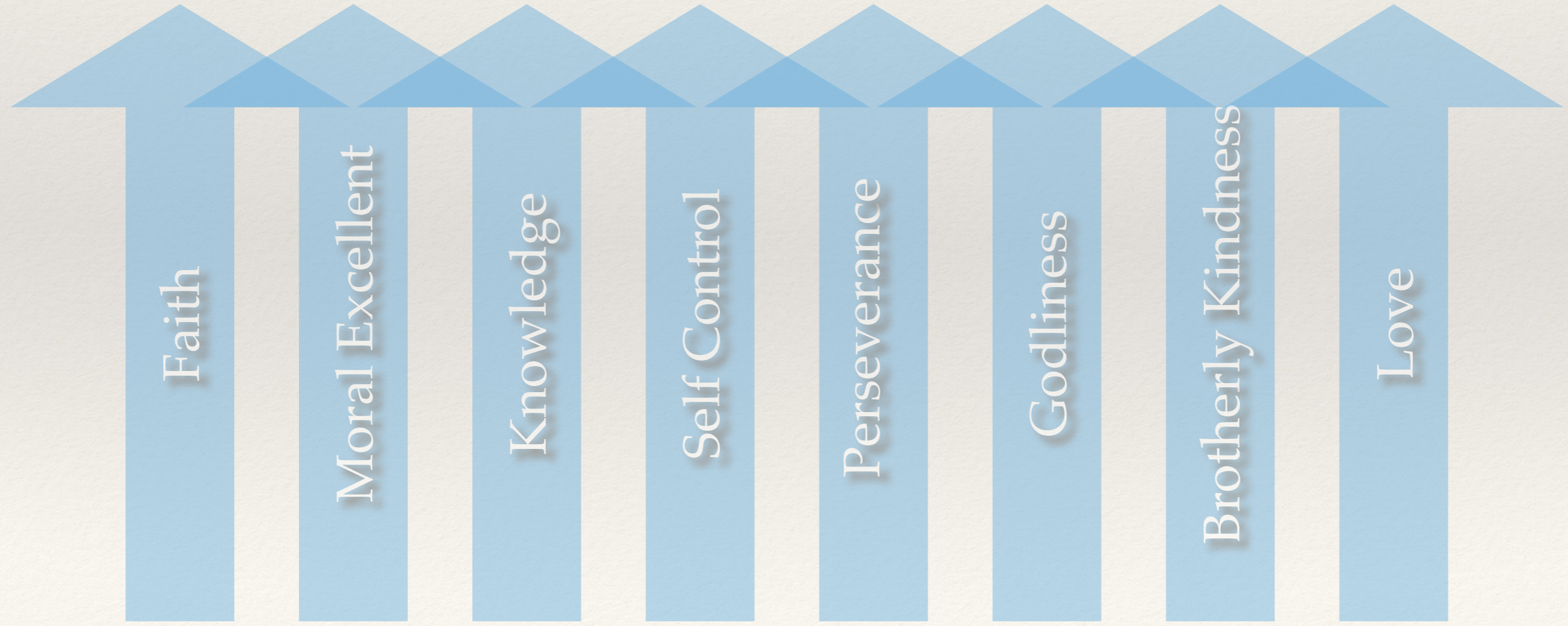
and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**,

and in *your* godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in *your* brotherly kindness, **love.**

For if these *qualities* are **yours** and **are increasing**, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

— 2 Peter 1:3-8

Love  
Brotherly Kindness  
Godliness  
Perseverance  
Self Control  
Knowledge  
Moral Excellence  
**Faith**



I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.

— Psalm 101:3

Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

Let all that you do be done in love.

— 1 Corinthians 16:13,14

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to **salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

so that the man of God may be adequate, **equipped for every good work.**

— 2 Timothy 3:14-17

But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction,  
but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

— Hebrews 10:39

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which  
has a great reward.

— Hebrews 10:35

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

— 1 Corinthians 2:2-5

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**For we are His workmanship,** created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

— Ephesians 2:8-10



Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed** lest he fall.

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

— 1 Corinthians 10:12,13

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete,  
without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will do it.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24

**Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.**

**Stand firm** therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**,

and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**;

in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.**

— Ephesians 6:13,18

“So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that  
one of these little ones perish.”

— Matthew 18:14