

## ***GOD'S TRAINING, Introduction: A Thematic Approach to the Bible , 3 pgs***

It isn't necessary to always be in defeat. Christians are not meant to live that way. The work of Christ is finished – we can be alive to God in that victory. Entering into that celebration becomes a tremendous joy. We begin to live in the reality of the supernatural world of true spirituality and experience the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit. The only thing that can minimize Christ's saving work is our failing to lay hold of it.

God's Training in Sonship is a Necessary Journey all of us Who Come to Christ are Obligated to Take. We come with all kinds of baggage. He uses the events and circumstances of our lives to break the conditioning of our world and train us. God calls each of us away from his old life and rationalism to a new way of thinking, and a new allegiance. SO IT IS WITH EVERY ONE OF US TO WHOM CHRIST MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN.

Of course it's not easy because we have a lot of baggage and we live in a war zone. God is both training us for war and preparing us for heaven. Now we see little reality in the things the Bible clearly says should be the result of Christianity, and our own reality is likely less than it had been in the early days after we had become Christians. It is out of these struggles with realism that the realness of the meaning of the finished work of Christ for our present lives comes. The 6 essays are book-ended by the four stages of life (GT#1&2) and the three tiers of truth (GT#6). Everything in between is encompassed by the discipline of working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, Phil.2:12-13 . For those who persevere the sun will come out and songs will again grace their lips. In that time of joy and song, thanksgiving and praise will once more flow.

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These 6 essays are a unit and, unlike anything else I have written, designed to be used for the rest of your life. They are information rich and life-changing if taken to heart. Don't just "read through," read slow, reread sentences and stop often to engage with them. The first couple times through, don't look up cross references or worry about the comments, but concentrate on the stories and principles. The essays are designed to be studied in order. Make sure you have a good understanding of each one before moving on to the next.

### ***DIRECTIONS***

These 6 essays (GT#1-6, 3 essays in 2 parts each) are meant to serve as a framework for your own study. You can add your own comments and discoveries. Use the cross references for later study. They are suitable for Christians 15 and older.

- **Footnotes** (9) immediately follow the material under their headings.
- **There are 9 numbered (apdx 2) appendices** (longer discussions)
- **Blue italics** indicate a quoted passage of Scripture.
- **Italics of other colors** indicate quotes by other authors.
- **If a statement or quote is followed by more than 1 reference**, the quote is from the 1<sup>st</sup> reference or underlined in the series .
- **Three dots**, ... , indicate omitted portions.

- **Passages followed by verse references**, **5-7** or **v.34** , are assumed to be from the same book and chapter(s) immediately preceding, **Heb.12:**
- **Phillips** refers to the NT paraphrase by J.B. Phillips.
- Bible translation abbreviations (**NIV = New International Version**) are from [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).
- **Green words** in Bible quotations are for clarification and **green brackets [ ]** contain additional comments.
- **Bold 2 or 3 letter capitalized abbreviations** of any color, **GST p.127** , reference pages in other essays & books where the subjects are discussed.
- **Additional information** about these recommended books is included at the end of the essays where the recommendation(s) and pictures are located.
- **To access URL addresses**, while holding control down, move cursor to URL and click for songs and additional materials. My website is <http://pop.eradman.com/>.

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## GT Summary

The work of Christ is finished, **Jn.4:34; 5:17, 36; 19:30**. Our work has yet to be done. The only thing that can minimize Christ's saving work is our failing to lay hold of it by faith. Christian living is characterized by the discipline of working out our own salvation in faith with fear and trembling.

How are you living [acting] out your salvation? **Working out your own salvation is not business (life) as usual.** It is a serious (*with fear & trembling*), ongoing, focused, intentional, transformational, personal effort trusting in God *who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose*, **Phil.2: 12-13**.

*His divine power has bestowed on us everything necessary for life and godliness through the rich knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and excellence. Through these things he has bestowed on us his precious and most magnificent promises, so that by means of [faith in] what was promised, you may become partakers of the divine nature [as his children], after escaping the worldly corruption that is produced by evil desire [lust] ... Make every effort to be sure [certain] of your calling and election. For by doing this you will never stumble into sin. For thus an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be richly provided for you, 2 Pt.1:*

### 3-11

*We must not reduce these passage(s) to only theological statement(s), even true statement(s); we are to act on them in our lives.*

*A person is justified [by faith **and** works] ... For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is *useless* , **Jas.2:17, 21-26** .*

*God has been treating [training] you as His children ... discipline is something all children have shared in ... he disciplines us for our benefit, that we may share his holiness , **Heb.12:7-11**.*

*We have become people who share in Christ, **if indeed we hold our original confidence firmly until the end** , **Heb.3:14** .*

*For those who **persevere** the sun will come out and songs will grace their lips. In that time of joy and song, thanksgiving and praise will once more flow.*