

GOD'S TRAINING, Introduction: A Thematic Approach to the Bible , 4 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 (GT#4)**. *This is beyond the indwelling of the Spirit of God which we receive upon believing in Christ. The fullness & power of the Spirit is not ours for the asking – there are certain conditions that must exist [see **GT#2, P.9, footnote a**]. These may be categorized as (1) doing the Lord's work in the Lord's way and (2) maintaining a clear conscience. Paul describes it like this ... herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward (a) God [**GT#6 , p.3**] , and toward (b) men, **Acts 24:16**.*

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 reality and train us to live in his, **Rom.12:1-2**. God calls each of us **away** from his old life and rationalism (see Dating intro 1) 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 bring a lot of baggage and consequences with us, and we live in a war zone. **God is both training us for war here 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 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** [figuring out how to live true to our faith] with fear and trembling, **Phil.2:12-13 (GT#2&6)**. **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.

=====

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 few times through, don't look up cross references or worry about the comments, but concentrate on the stories and lessons. 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 10 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 1st reference or underlined reference 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.
- **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 places in other essays & books where the subjects are discussed.
- **Additional information** about these recommended books is included at the end of the essays where 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/>.

CONTENTS, 103 pgs

1 of 6, Abraham & Sarah, part 1 of 2 - life story and training: the 4 Stages of Life, 12 pgs

BOOKS: Genesis in Space and Time, **GST**; Abraham's Four Seeds **AFS**

2 of 6, Beyond Abraham, 2 of 2 - New Era: Fullness, Leading, & Power of the Spirit, 16 pgs

BOOKS: True Spirituality, **TS**; The Finished Work of Christ, **FWC**

3 of 6, Moses & Israel, 1 of 2 - life story and training, 13 pgs

BOOK: Beginning at Moses, **BAM**

4 of 6, Beyond Moses, 2 of 2 - Joshua and the Conquest of Canaan, 10 pgs

BOOKS: Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History, **JFH**; A Christian Manifesto, **ACM**

5 of 6, Saul & David, 1 of 2 - life story and training, 12 pgs

BOOKS: Total Truth, **TT**; No Little People, **NLP**

6 of 6, Beyond David, 2 of 2 – the 3 tiers of the Framework of Truth, 21 pgs

BOOKLET: The Mark of the Christian, **MOC**

Appendices, 16 pgs

=====

GT Summary

That the work of Christ has been finished [**Jn.4:34; 5:17, 36; 19:30**] is the foundation of our new life. 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**. This is the foundation, the underpinning, the universal constant for God's people. Our living hope of glorification with Christ determines our priorities. *The justified [supernaturally reborn, **Jn.1:12-13**] shall live [walk, carry on, move forward] by means of faith [in this natural world] , **Rom.1:17** . Christian living is characterized by the discipline of working out our own salvation [figuring out how to navigate this life by faith very carefully] with fear and trembling . **This is not business (life) as usual**. It is a serious, ongoing, focused, intentional, transformational [**GT#6, p.3-4**], 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** . Some passages require clarification in order to be understood [apdx 5, p.7-11]*. Every statement, promise, command in Scripture carries the **understanding** of blessing if you keep it and consequences if you ignore it. Specific directions and promises are always associated with **implications** that we do well to heed, [apdx 1, p.1-2].*

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 Bible passage(s) to only theological statements, even true statements; we are to act on their content in our lives.

JUSTIFICATION: *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** .*

TRAINING: *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**.*

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

FORWARD

The Book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were facing persecution and were **tempted to abandon their new faith in Jesus Christ** to return to Judaism. The letter was intended to encourage perseverance and demonstrate the superiority of Christ's new covenant over the old Jewish covenant.

*Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken through angels proved to be so firm that every violation or disobedience received its just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? ... See to it ... that none of you has an evil, unbelieving heart that forsakes the living God. But exhort one another each day ... that none of you may become hardened by sin's deception. For we have become sharers with Christ, if in fact we hold our initial confidence firm until the end ... **Heb.2:1-3; 3:12-14**.*

Christian Maturity

On this topic [preceding discussion] we have much [more] to say [but] it is difficult to explain [ie, for you to understand], since you have become dull [instead of progressing in the Christian life, they had become spiritually sluggish and mentally lazy] in hearing [In the Bible, hearing & doing are like faith & works – they belong together as two sides of the same coin. **Jas.1:21-25; Mt.7:24-27; GT#6, p.3**]. For though you should in fact be [trained] teachers by this time [you haven't progressed in your understanding], you need someone to teach you the beginning elements of God's utterances [**Heb.6:1-2** , all over again!]. You have gone back [actually regressed] to needing milk, not [instead of] solid food. For everyone who lives on milk is **inexperienced** in the message of righteousness, because he is an infant [not capable of handling it]. But solid food is for the mature, whose perceptions are **trained by [practicing righteousness] to discern both good and evil** [distinguish good from evil], **Heb.5.11-14**

... For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened, tasted the heavenly gift, become partakers of the Holy Spirit, tasted the good word of God and the miracles of the coming age, and then have committed apostasy [turned away from the faith], to renew them again to repentance [see **GT#6, p.19-21**], since they are crucifying the Son of God for themselves all over again and holding him up to contempt [2 **Pt.2:20-21; 1 Jn.5:16**]. [analogy] For the ground that has soaked up the rain that frequently falls on it and yields useful vegetation for those who tend it receives a blessing from God. But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is useless and about to be cursed; its fate is to be burned ... But we passionately want each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of your hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and perseverance **inherit the promises, 6:4-12** [see **GT#6, p.19-21**].

LAST WORD

Are you ready? You can't mess around with this. It could be your last chance. Start a journal – don't rush. Read the material over and over, each word, each phrase, one sentence at a time. EVENTUALLY begin looking up cross references within GT, footnotes & appendices; read essays on pop.eradman.com . Get the books recommended. As you are trained, teach others; start in-person & internet discussion groups. Expand the knowledge from the GT framework. God Bless