

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ with a family in a paradisaical setting. Jesus, with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe, is kneeling and embracing a young girl. Behind them stand three adults (two men and one woman) in white robes, looking on with smiles. The woman on the right has her hands clasped in prayer. They are in a lush garden with a blue river, green trees, and a large white building in the background under a blue sky with a vibrant rainbow. The scene is framed by green leaves at the top.

Living as a member of God's Family

Class 1: What does God require of You?

**God has Incredible
Love for us**



Why this matters:

**we
BECOME
what we
WORSHIP**

**So let the
Bible be our
source for
knowing
God**



**What is your
understanding
of God?**

**What kind of
relationship do
you have with
God & Jesus?**



**Our God
loves
us...**

**like a father
loves his
children**



God's love for His children has always caused Him to act

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

6 "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; **the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.** 7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 **but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you** from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

God continues to act for His children today because He loves them & keeps His promises

God expects us to respond to His love

Deuteronomy 10:12-20 ESV

12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? ... 15 Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. 16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. 17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

He loves the sojourner, so we must too!

**When God forgives our sins He expects
this will lead to our repentance**

Romans 2:1-5 ESV

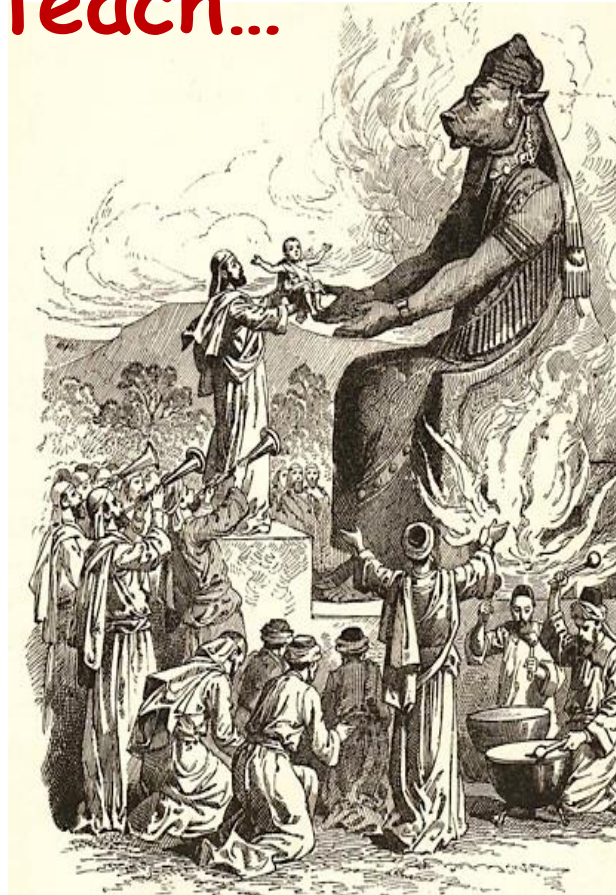
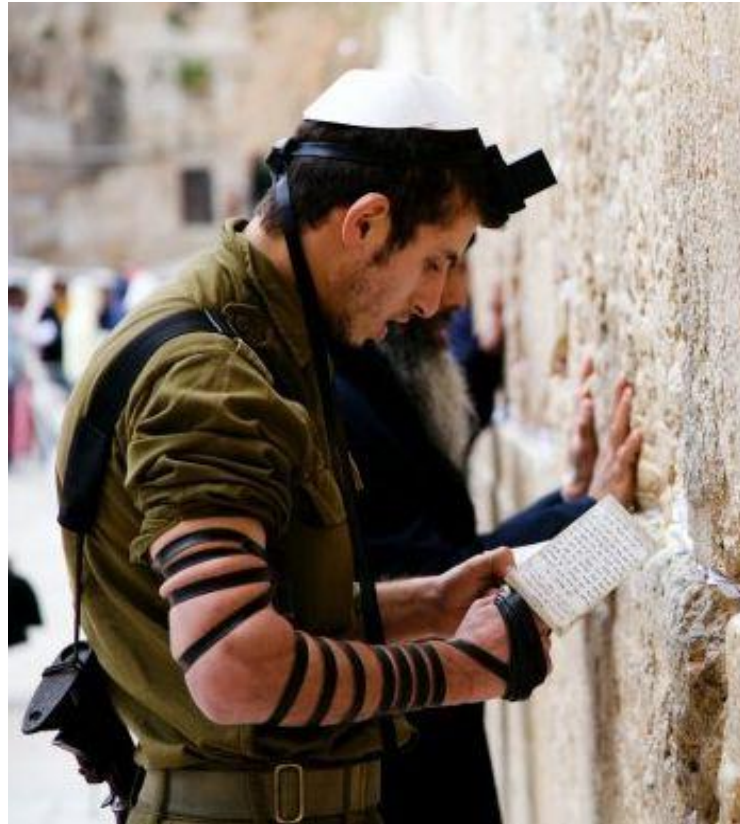
Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because **you, the judge, practice the very same things.** 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 **Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience,** not knowing that **God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?** 5 But **because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath** for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

There is a limit to God's kindness & patience!

**What does the Lord
require of YOU?**



How some religions teach...



You can earn Salvation



DOING THE
MOST GOOD™

FLORIDA DIVISION



God doesn't compare all our
good deeds with our sins!

He
gives
grace!

Good
deeds

Sins

then hopes
we will love
His eternal
way of life
and
respond with
obedience



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. (Eph 2:8-9 NIV)

but God shows his
love for us in that
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
(Rom 5:8 ESV)

THE
GIFT OF
SALVATION

faith

We are not here by accident

John 15:14-16

14 **You are My friends** if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 **You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and **appointed you that you should go and bear fruit**, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Jesus has chosen you to be part of his family

Even the angels can become our friends

Genesis 18:16-19

16 Then the men (3 angels) rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. 17 And **the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,** 18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 **For I have known him,** in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

"I have become his intimate friend" [Roth]

God has invited YOU

John 6:43-44

43 Jesus therefore answered (the Jews) and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. 44 **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up at the last day.

God chooses who He wants to invite
into His Family - it's a privilege!

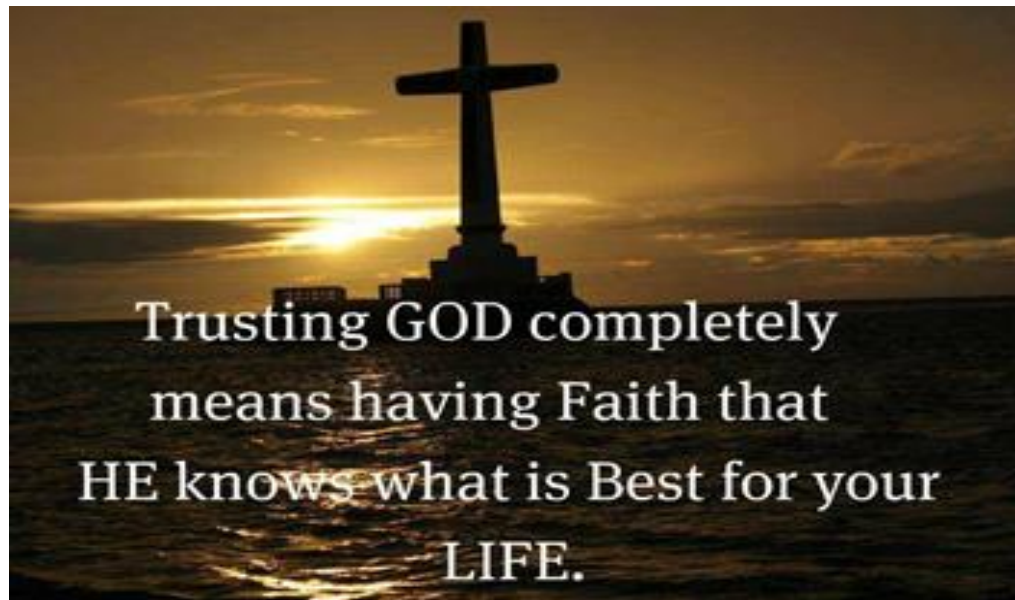
God is creating a Family
And You have been invited



God's family members trust Him & live like Him

God is our Coach

- He financed the team
- He chose the players
- He sets the game-plan
- He guarantees success
- He knows what we need to play on his team



All He has ever
required of His
children is to trust
Him, love Him, and
walk in His ways

What God is after from us

Micah 6:6-8

6 With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; and **what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?**

God is creating a family with members who live like Him - not trusting in rituals

A close-up of a human hand with fingers slightly curled, reaching out towards a bright, glowing yellow star in a dark, starry space. The background is filled with distant stars and nebulae, creating a cosmic atmosphere. The hand is in the foreground, and the star is in the middle ground, creating a sense of reaching towards the heavens.

Many are the plans in a man's
heart, but it is the Lord's purpose
that prevails. (Prov 19:21 NIV)

GOD IS IN **CONTROL**

PROVERBS 19:21

God has always wanted obedience to His ways

Jeremiah 7:21-24

21 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:
"Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat
meat. 22 For I did not speak to your fathers, or
command them in the day that I brought them out of
the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or
sacrifices. 23 But this is what I commanded them,
saying, '**Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and
you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that
I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.**'

Obedience to God's ways, not Law



This is the piece we must provide!

Faith that changes how we live!



- **Faith in God's love for us** & His ability to change our lives to save us
- **Faith that God is in control:** Guiding our lives so we will develop into His children
- **Faith that trusts God completely,** no matter what happens in our lives
- **Faith motivates us to follow** in the steps of Jesus

This Faith brings us peace

Faith is the Key!

Hebrews 11:1-6 (NIV)

1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And **without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**

Faith is the motivator to live for God

We must maintain Faith to the end!

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NIV)

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. **14** People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.** **16** Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.**

We must have endurance to the end

Those who lack faith will not join God's Family

Hebrews 3:7-19

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, '**They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.**' 11 **So I swore in My wrath, 'they shall not enter My rest.'**"

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Faith provides the motive to trust God

Those who lack faith will not join God's Family

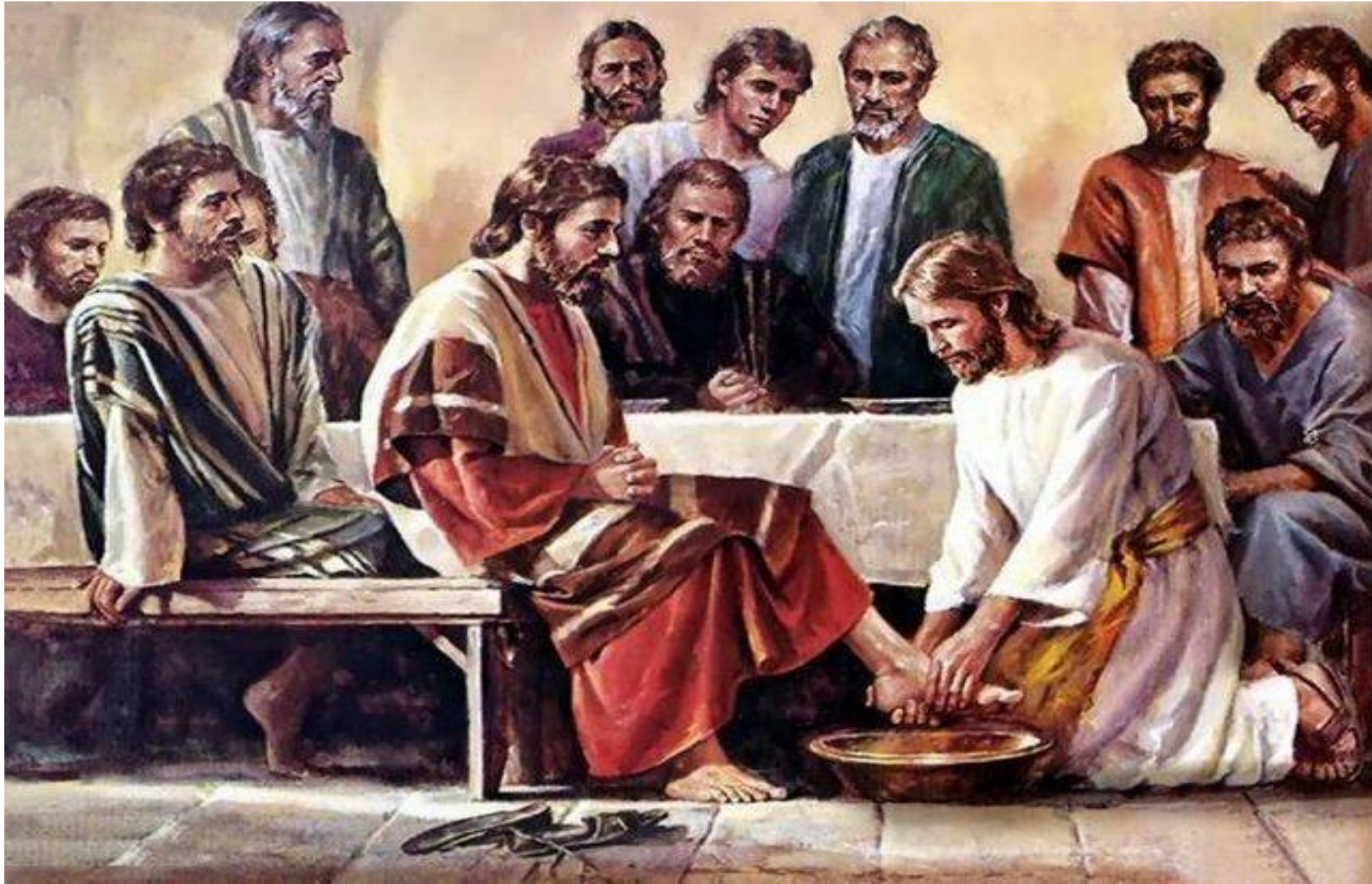
Hebrews 3:7-19

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,
15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 **So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief (no faith).**

Faith provides the motive to trust God

Faith motivates us to serve God & others



Faith must be active!

James 2:14-26

14 **What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?** 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and **one of you** says to them, "**Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,**" but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 **But (back to v. 16) someone [like James] will say, "You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."** *[Note: quotes should end here as in the NASB]* 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Our faith should motivate us to live for God

Faith must be active!

James 2:14-26

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 **You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also.**

Our faith should motivate us to live for God

Faith Trusts God in ALL circumstances of life

- **Daniel's 3 friends** in the fiery furnace (Dan 3)
- **Joseph** in prison in Egypt (Gen 39)
- **David**, when his men wanted to stone him after the Amalekites raided Ziklag (1Sam 30)
- **Jesus**, after he asked God if there was any other way (Mat 26:39)

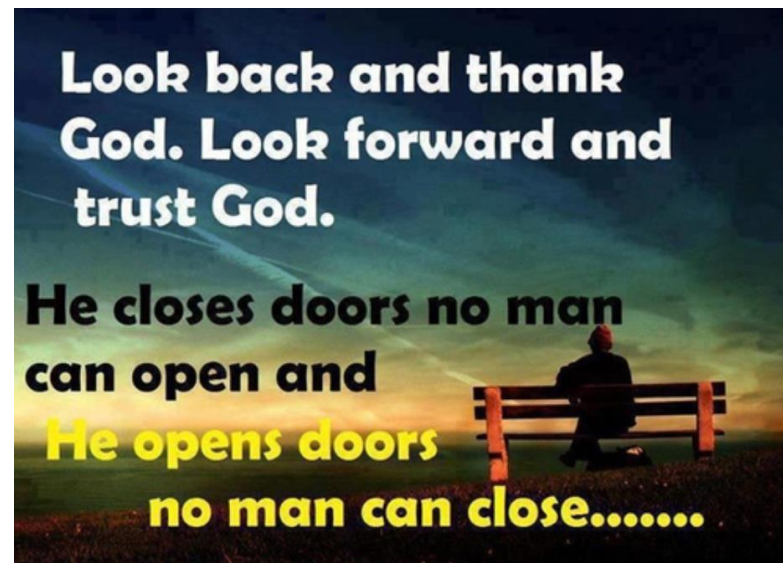
Faith allowed them to move forward, no matter what happened, confident God was working in their lives



Faith Trusts God in ALL circumstances of our lives

- We might be frustrated with our family or ecclesia
- We may not get the boyfriend or girlfriend we want so bad
- We may have lost our health or job
- We might experience an accident or major health issue

Faith allows us to move forward,
no matter what has happened,
confident God is working in our lives





**God wants a
relationship
with you where
you will trust
Him like your
Father, so He
can raise you
into His Family**

Job trusted all that God did

Job 1:20-21

20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. **The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.**"

Job 2:9-10

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? **Curse God and die!**"

10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. **Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?**" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

This changes the way we behave

Look how God's Family members behave

Zechariah 3:1-5

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest **standing before the Angel of the Lord (Michael – Jude 9)**, and Satan (Samaritans: Ezra 4) standing at his right hand to oppose him. 2 **And the Lord (angel) said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"** 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was **standing before the Angel.**

How did this powerful angel handle the Adversary?

Notice how an Archangel behaves!

Jude 5-11

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward **destroyed those who did not believe**. 6 And the angels (human messengers with Korah) who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Jude reminds us that Angels demonstrate
to us how God's family members behave

Notice how an Archangel behaves!

Jude 5-11

8 Likewise also **these dreamers** (*of Jude's day*) **defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.** 9 Yet **Michael the archangel**, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, **dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"** 10 **But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.** 11 **Woe to them!** For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Jude reminds us that Angels demonstrate to us how God's family members behave

Angels reveal the character of God

Exodus 34:6-7 ESV

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, **a God merciful [compassionate] and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty,**

This is the character we should be aiming for

God's compassion compels Him to show mercy

Psalm 78:37-39

37 For their (Israel's) heart was not steadfast with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant.

38 **But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them.** Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath; 39 For He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again.

We need to develop this same compassion



Remember how
the angels
treated Lot

Look at how Angels dealt with Lot

Genesis 19:1-3

19 Now **the two angels came to Sodom** in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. 2 And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way."

And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

3 But **he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him** and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

These angels kindly accommodated Lot's request

Look at the patience of angels

Genesis 19:12-17

12 Then the men said to Lot, "**Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city — take them out of this place!** 13 For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it."

14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law... But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

The angels waiting all night!

Unbelievable patience

Genesis 19:17-19

17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "**Escape for your life!** Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. **Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.**"

18 Then **Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords!** 19 Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but **I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die.**

God's family members are full of mercy – like God

Unbelievable patience

Genesis 19:17-22

20 See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."

21 And he said to him, "**See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.**

22 Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there."

Angels are full of compassion – Like our God

How God's family members behave

None of this!



Don't Lie To One Another

**“Do not lie to
one another,**

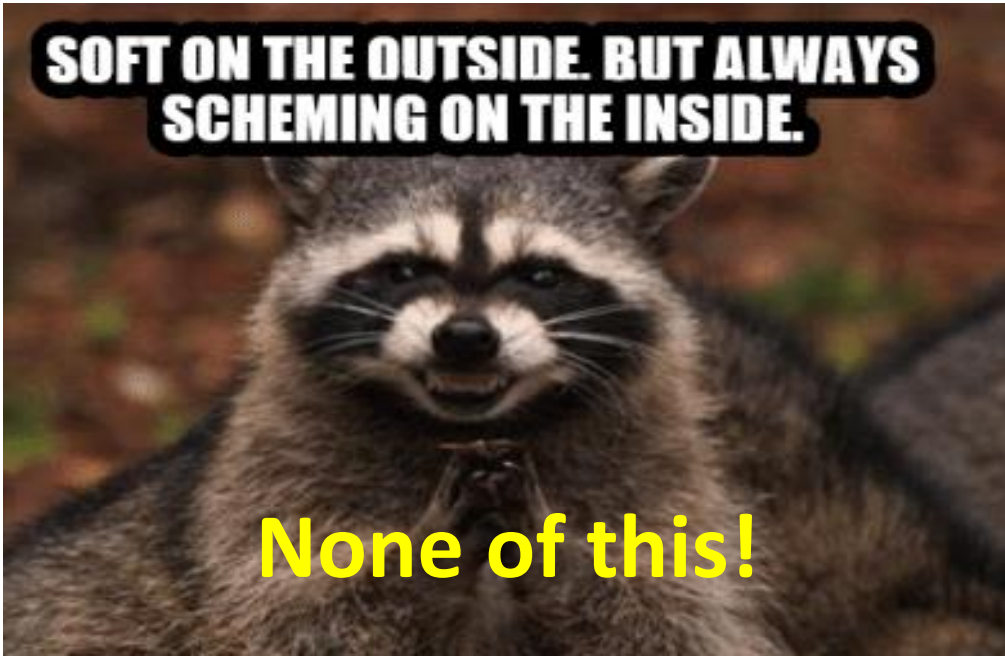
since you laid aside the old
self with its evil practices.”
Colossians 3:9a NASB



PrayerThoughts.com

**SOFT ON THE OUTSIDE. BUT ALWAYS
SCHEMING ON THE INSIDE.**

None of this!



Faithfulness



A person is seen from behind, standing with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or prayer. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background is a vast sky filled with soft, white and grey clouds, with a warm orange and pink glow from the setting or rising sun visible at the horizon. The overall mood is one of spiritual uplift and devotion.

**Let's use this week to
enhance our...**

Relationship With God

Our Father in Heaven

To grow our Faith

Lessons from This Class

- God doesn't expect us to do some impossible act to earn salvation - He did that in Christ
- God loves you and wants to give you His free gift of grace
- God is looking for Faith in us - He wants us to trust His game plan and promises to save us into His family
- To become part of God's family forever, we must learn to live like His family members



Living as a member of God's Family

Class 1: What does God require of You?