

# CHAPTER 27

## God and the Bible in Follow-Up

### Introduction: Who does the follow-Up?

#### 1 Corinthians 3:5-8

| Verse | Paul   | Apollos  | God   |
|-------|--|--|---|
| 5     | ...and what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed,         | What then is Apollos? ... Servants through whom you believed,    | even as the Lord gave <i>opportunity</i> to each one    |
| 6     | I planted,   | Apollos watered,   | but God was causing the growth.<br>(ἀλλ ὁ θεὸς ἤρξανεν) |
| 7     | So then neither the one who plants ... is anything,              | nor the one who waters is anything,                              | but God who causes the growth.<br>(ἀλλ ὁ ἀυξάνων θεός)  |
| 8     | Now he who plants and he who waters are one;                     |  |   |
|       | but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor* | but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor* |   |

[Gk. Verse 7, ὥστε οὔτε ὁ φυτεύων ἐστίν τι οὔτε ὁ ποτίζων ἀλλ ὁ ἀυξάνων θεός]

\*Emphasizing grace to labor, see 1 Cor 15:10

### Main Theme: God is intimately involved in every aspect of follow-up (and discipleship)!

#### A. A Preliminary Theology of Follow-Up:

Introduction: **Who is ultimately responsible for the spiritual growth of the new believer?** Several choices emerge:

1. The one who led him to faith in Jesus Christ
2. The new believer himself
3. The local church
4. God

Much like the hypostatic union considered in evangelism, it is not surprising that the same pattern emerges as it comes to follow-up.

Often the contemporary Evangelist [or Christian] may be made to “take the blame” if a convert falls by the wayside. While there is a biblical responsibility to do what we can, there are clear biblical examples of no follow-up (Mark 5:17-20; Acts 8:38-40) and we have the repeated Parable of the Sower which explains that not all apparent receptions of the Word will persevere (Matt 13:20-21; et al.)

The Bible seems to place the following order of responsibility on the follow-up of the new believer (chronological and prioritative):

1. In the first place:
  - a. God (1 Cor 3:6-7; Phil 1:6)
2. In second place:
  - a. The one who led him to faith in Christ (Matt 28:19-20)
  - b. The new believer himself (Col 2:6-7; 1 Pet 2:2)
3. In the third place:
  - c. The local church (Eph 4:11-15)

There can be a huge amount of guilt placed on the Evangelist who led someone to Christ, if that person does not persevere in the faith. It is extremely important that the entire teaching of Scripture be considered on this subject.

Whereas Paul gave thanks to God for His ministry in follow-up...

### On the translation of ὀφείλω [to owe, be indebted to] in 2 Thess 1:3

[On Paul's debt to God for His follow-up of the Thessalonians]

| Byzantine   | Latin Vulgate (435)   | Wycliffe (1388)  | My translation (2008)   | Tyndale (1534); cf KJV; Webster's; RSV; NKJV   | Geneva (1560); cf. Young's; Darby; ASV; NAS; NIV; ESV; NET   | New Jerusalem Bible <sup>ε</sup> ; cf. NRSV; CSB   | God's Word for the Nations (1995)   | Bible in Basic English (1949, 1964)  | New Living Translation (2004)   |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
|   | Debemus   | We owen  | We are indebted to  | We are bound   | We oght  | We must  | We ...have to   | It is right  | We can't help   |
| Εὐχαριστεῖν ὀφείλομεν τῷ θεῷ πάντοτε περὶ ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί, καθὼς ἄξιόν ἐστιν, ὅτι ὑπεραυξάνει ἡ πίστις ὑμῶν, καὶ πλεονάζει ἡ ἀγάπη ἑνὸς ἐκάστου πάντων ὑμῶν εἰς ἀλλήλους· | Gratias agere debemus Deo semper pro vobis fratres ita ut dignum est quoniam supercrescit fides vestra et abundat caritas uniuscuiusque omnium vestrum in invicem | We owen to do thankyngis eueremore to God for you, britheren, so as it is worthis, for youre feith ouer wexith, and the charite of ech of you to othere aboundith. | We are indebted to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is proper, that your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you toward one another abounds. | We are bounde to thanke God all wayes for you brethren as it is mete because that your fayth groweth exceedingly and every one of you swymmeth in love toward another betwene youre selves | We oght to thanke God alwayes for you, brethren, as it is mete, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the loue of euerie one of you toward another, abundeth, | We must always thank God for you, brothers; quite rightly, because your faith is growing so wonderfully and the mutual love that each one of you has for all never stops increasing. | We always have to thank God for you, brothers and sisters. It's right to do this because your faith is showing remarkable growth and your love for each other is increasing | It is right for us to give praise to God at all times for you, brothers, because of the great increase of your faith, and the wealth of your love for one another; | Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing. |

**B. The Role of the Godhead in Follow-up:**<sup>1441</sup>

1. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit seal the young Christian, 2 Cor 1:22, Eph 1:13, 4:30
2. God the Father perfects the work He has begun, Phil 1:6

**On the Translation of πείθω [to persuade] in Philippians 1:6**

[Persuaded in God's ability to secure the new believer]

| Byzantine   | Latin Vulgate (435)  | Wycliffe (1388)   | Tyndale (1534)  | Geneva (1560)  | KJV (1611, 1769), cf. Webster's; ERS; ASV; NKJV; NIV   | NAS (1977)  | Young's (1862, 1888, 1898)  | Darby (1884, 1890)   | New American Bible <sup>21</sup> (1901); cf. NRSV   | New Jerusalem <sup>22</sup> (1985)   | God's Word for the Nations (1995)  | Bible in Basic English (1949, 1964); cf. NLT  | RSV (1952); cf. ESV; NET; CSB  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
|   | <b>Confidens</b>   | <b>Tristenynge</b>  | <b>[I] am suerly certified</b>  | <b>I am persuaded</b>  | <b>Being confident</b>   | <b>Confident</b>  | <b>Having been confident</b>  | <b>Having confidence</b>   | <b>I am confident</b>   | <b>I am quite confident</b>  | <b>I'm convinced</b>   | <b>I am certain</b>   | <b>I am sure</b>   |
| πεποιθώς αὐτὸ τοῦτο, ὅτι ὁ ἐναρξάμενος ἐν ὑμῖν ἔργον ἀγαθὸν ἐπιτελεῖσκει ἄχρι ἡμέρας χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ. | confidens hoc ipsum quia qui coepit in vobis opus bonum perficiet usque in diem Christi Iesu | Tristenynge this ilke thing, that he that bigan in you a good werk, schal performe it til in to the dai of Jhesu Crist. | and am suerly certified of this that he which beganne a good worke in you shall go forthe with it vntyll the daye of Iesus Christ | And I am persuaded of this same thing, that he that hath begne <i>this</i> good worke in you, wil performe it vntil the day of Iesus Christ, | Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Iesus Christ: | <i>For I am</i> confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Iesus Christ. | having been confident of this very thing, that He who did begin in you a good work, will perform it till a day of Iesus Christ, | having confidence of this very thing, that he who has begun in you a good work will complete it unto Iesus Christ's day: | I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Iesus Christ comes. | I am quite confident that the One who began a good work in you will go on completing it until the Day of Iesus Christ comes. | I'm convinced that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Iesus Christ. | For I am certain of this very thing, that he by whom the good work was started in you will make it complete till the day of Iesus Christ: | And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Iesus Christ. |

3. God the Father causes the spiritual growth of the young Christian, 1 Cor 3:6-7
4. God seeks out the believer who is seeking Him, Psa 119:176; James 4:8
5. The Holy Spirit indwells and directs the young Christian, John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13.
6. The Holy Spirit gives the young Christian the desire to obey Him, Ezek 36:27
7. The Holy Spirit working through the Word of God (1 Thess 2:13) transforms the young Christian “from glory to glory,” 2 Cor 3:17-18
8. Jesus Christ is the example for the young Christian, Rom 8:29 (cf. 1 Cor 11:1)
9. Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit intercede for the young Christian, Rom 8:26-27, 34; Heb 7:25

<sup>1441</sup>For more information on this subject see also T. Johnston, *Mindset*, Chap 5, II.A., “The Christian and Leading for Evangelism.”

### C. The Role of the Bible in Spiritual Growth:<sup>1442</sup>

Introduction: The sure way to make sure that God is doing the follow up is through encouraging the new believer to feed on the pure milk of the Word of God, 1 Pet 2:2

#### Translations of λογικός in 1 Peter 2:2

| Greek Byzantine*                   | Latin Vulgate (435)                  | Tyndale (1534)   | English Geneva (1560)                 | Etheridge** (1841)  | Darby (1884)                                       | Douais-Rheims <sup>‡</sup> (1899)        | American Standard Version (1901)                    | New American Standard (1977)                    | New Jerusalem <sup>‡</sup> (1985)                                     | Good News Trans <sup>‡</sup> (1993)                 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| λογικός                            | rationale                            | reasonable   | of the woorde                         | of the word   | mental ... of the word                             | rational                                 | spiritual   | of the word                                     | spiritual   | spiritual   |
| τὸ λογικὸν ἄδολον γάλα ἐπιποθήσατε | rationale sine dolo lac concupiscite | desyre that reasonable mylke which is with out corruptcion | desire the syncere milke of the worde | and be desirous of the word as of milk pure and spiritual | desire earnestly the pure mental milk of the word, | desire the rational milk without guile,  | long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, | long for the pure milk of the word,             | all your longing should be for milk—the unadulterated spiritual milk— | who are thirsty for pure spiritual milk,            |
| ἵνα ἐν αὐτῷ ἀύξηθῆτε               | ut in eo crescatis in salutem        | that ye maye growe therein                                 | that ye maye growe thereby            | that by it you may increase unto life                     | that by it ye may grow up to salvation             | that thereby you may grow unto salvation | that ye may grow thereby unto salvation             | that by it you may grow in respect to salvation | which will help you to grow up to salvation                           | so that by drinking it you may grow up and be saved |

\*The Nestle Aland “critical” text adds to the last phrase the words “εἰς σωτηρίαν” [unto salvation], which is an example of a return to the priority of the Vulgate in some decisions of the Editorial Committee of the United Bible Society.

\*\*The Etheridge is a literal translation of the New Testament Peshitta (a 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Syriac translation of the Bible)

1. The Bible is the acting agent for spiritual growth in the life of the Christian, Psa 119:38; 1 Thess 2:13 (cf. 2 Cor 3:17-18)
2. The Bible is the central reference point for follow-up, Acts 8:25; 13:44; 18:11; 20:32
3. The Bible is the standard for spiritual growth:
  - a. Through its many admonitions to stand firm in its teaching:
    - 1) Encouraging a reverence for God’s Word, Prov 13:13; Acts 17:11
    - 2) Do not go “to the right or to the left” of biblical teaching, Deut 5:32; 17:20; 28:14; Jos. 1:7.
    - 3) Inclining one’s ear or heart towards the Word, Prov 2:2; 4:20; 5:1
    - 4) Treasuring the Word, Prov 7:1
    - 5) Not forgetting God’s Word, Prov 3:1
    - 6) Not abandoning God’s Word, Prov 4:2
  - b. Because of the results of heeding its teaching:
    - 1) Brings spiritual growth, 1 Pet 2:2
    - 2) Brings blessing, Prov 8:32-34; Rev 1:3
    - 3) Renders the Christian adequate and equipped for every good work, 2 Tim 3:16-17 (cf. 1 Tim 4:6)
  - c. Through its many examples of spiritual success and failure:
    - 1) Several examples of spiritual failure:
      - a) David’s adultery with Bathsheba, 2 Sam 11
      - b) Abijam, “who’s heart was not fully devoted to the Lord His God,” 1 Kgs 15:3
      - c) Peter’s denial of Jesus, Mark 14:29-31, 66-72 (cf. Luke 12:8-9)
      - d) Ananias and Saphira, Acts 5:1-11

<sup>1442</sup>T. Johnston, *Mindset*, “God’s Word in the Nurture of the Christian,” Chap 1, IV.E., also speaks on this point.

- 2) Several examples of spiritual success (cf. Jos. 1:8; Psa 1:3):
  - a) Jesus, the Example, Rom 8:29
  - b) The exemplary life of Joseph, Gen 37-50
  - c) The hall of faith, Heb 11
4. God encourages a regular diet of His Word:
  - a. God's Word is an important part of a regular diet, Deut 8:3, Matt 4:4, Luke 4:4, 1 Pet 2:2 (cf. 1 Tim 4:6)
  - b. Through personally handwriting God's Word, Deut 17:18:
    - 1) Recommended starting point for handwriting Scripture: 1 John, Romans, 2 Timothy, Gospel of John
    - 2) Recommended methodology and pace for writing of Scripture: daily writing from 3-7 verses on loose leaf paper, one book at a time; a more literal translation is highly recommended: e.g. KJV, NAS, NKJ, ESV
    - 3) Advanced students may also alternate in OT books, such as: Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah, and Jeremiah, perhaps alternating days, weeks, or months, from NT writing to NT writing
  - c. Through daily reading of His Word, Deut 17:19-20, Prov 8:34 (cf. Isa 50:4)
  - d. Through memorization of the Word, Psa 119:11, Prov 22:18
  - e. Through constant meditation and application of its teaching, Jos. 1:8, Psa 1:1-3 (e.g. Psa 77:11-12)
5. Results of meditation on the Word:
  - a. God's Word keeps from sin, Psa 17:4; 119:9 (cf. 2 Cor 10:4-5)
  - b. God's Word cleanses the heart, John 15:3; 17:17
  - c. God's Word sustains the Christian, Psa 119:116
6. God the Holy Spirit gives the Christian the desire to obey His Word, Ezek 36:27

## D. God's Word in the Nurture of the Christian:

Introduction: Remembering that God deals with us according to His Word, Psa 119:65

1. Commands concerning God's Word in the Christian life:
  - a. Study, Psa 111:2; 2 Tim 2:15
  - b. Meditation and memorization, Jos 1:8; Psa 1:1-3; 119:11, 147-148; Prov 7:3 (e.g. Psa 37:31)
  - c. Obedience, Deut 5:1; 6:1-2; John 14:21; 1 John 2:3-6; Rev 1:3 (e.g. Jer 42:5-6)
2. God's Word and the Christian life:
  - a. Life in the Word:
    - 1) God's Word "produces reverence for God," Psa 119:38
    - 2) God's Word builds up (οἰκοδομέω) the Christian, Acts 20:32
    - 3) God's Word transforms the Christian, 1 Thess 2:13
    - 4) God's Word cleanses the Christian's soul, John 15:3; 17:17; Eph 5:26 (cf. Tit. 3:5)
    - 5) God's Word becomes the lifeblood of the Christian, Deut 32:47 (cf. Deut 8:3; Matt 4:4)
    - 6) God's Word is a source of strength to the Christian, Psa 119:28 (e.g. Psa 130:5)
    - 7) God's Word nourishes the Christian, 1 Tim 4:6
    - 8) God's Word sustains the believer, Psa 119:116
    - 9) God's Word comforts the Christian, Psa 119:52
    - 10) God's Word revives the afflicted soul, Psa 107:20; 119:50, 93 (cf. Psa 119:37, 107, 156)
    - 11) God's Word heals those who cry out to Him, Psa 107:19-20
    - 12) God's Word chastens the Christian, Psa 94:12 (cf. Heb 4:12; 2 Tim 3:16)
    - 13) God's Word keeps the believer from sin, Psa 17:4; 119:11 (cf. Psa 119:133)
    - 14) God's Word formulates the Christian's songs, Psa 119:54, 172 (cf. Col 3:16)
  - b. Maintaining life in the Word:
    - 1) The Christian should put his faith in a God who is true to His Word, Rom 10:17 (see Psa 105:19)

- 2) The Christian should give attention to the Word, Prov 2:1; 16:20:
  - 3) The Christian should listen to the Word, Ezek 3:10
  - 4) The Christian should observe God's Word, Psa 119:56
  - 5) The Christian should take God's Word into his heart, Ezek 3:10
  - 6) The Christian should abide in the Word, John 8:31 (cf. John 15:7)
  - 7) The Christian should remember God's Word, Psa 119:52
  - 8) The Christian should let his mind dwell on the Word, Col 3:16 (cf. Col 3:1-2, e.g. Phil 4:8)
  - 9) "My words shall not depart from your mouth," Isa 59:21 (cf. Jos. 1:8)
  - 10) "Holding fast to the word of life," Phil 2:16
- c. Living out of fellowship with the Word (note the progression):
- 1) Forgetting, Deut 4:9, 23; 8:11, 14, 19; 2 Kings 17:38; Psa 119:139; Prov 3:1
  - 2) Wandering, Psa 119:10, 21, 118
  - 3) Disbelieving the Word, Psa 106:24
  - 4) Not listening to God's voice, Psa 106:25 (cf. Jer 17:23; 36:31; 37:2; 44:5, 16, "we are not going to listen to you!")
  - 5) Refusing to listen, Jer 13:10 (cf. Jer 12:17)
  - 6) Turning from the Law, Prov 28:9
  - 7) Forsaking, Deut 31:16-17, Psa 89:30-34; 119:53, 87 (e.g. I Sam. 15:19-24; Jer 9:12-14)
  - 8) "Rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High." Psa 107:11
  - 9) Despising the Word, Prov 13:13
  - 10) Hating the Word of God, Psa 50:17
  - 11) To Jeremiah the prophet, "You are telling a lie!" Jer 43:2
3. Examples of the Role of God's Word in Christian Nurture:
- a. God's Word in follow-up, Acts 8:25; 13:44; 18:11; 20:32
  - b. Scripture meditation in the Bible:
    - 1) The example of the Apostles, Acts 6:2-4
    - 2) The example of a receptive group, Acts 17:11
    - 3) The example of right fellowship, Col 3:16
    - 4) The example and encouragement of Timothy, 2 Tim 3:14-15

## Chapter 27 Appendixes

### Growth and Development in the Christian Life

1. A Study of the word “grow,” ἀυξάνω, in the New Testament:
  - a. Growth is achieved through God’s Word, 1 Pet 2:2, “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may **grow** with respect to salvation” (ἀυξηθήτε)
  - b. Growth is possible in a local church where members are using their gifts, and under sound teaching, Eph 4:11-15 (v 15), “But speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ” (ἀυξήσωμεν)
    - 1) Growth is directly related to use of our spiritual gifts, 1 Tim 4:14
  - c. Growth is achieved through a decision of the will, 2 Pet 3:17-18 (v 18), “But **grow** in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen” (ἀυξάνετε):
    - 1) Growth is achieved through spiritual discipline, 1 Tim 4:7-8
    - 2) Growth is achieved through being driven to progress spiritually, 1 Tim 4:15
    - 3) Growth is achieved through perseverance, 1 Tim 4:16
  - d. Growth should be the natural by product of the Christian life, both growth in righteousness and in effectiveness, Prov 4:18; 1 Tim 4:12
2. Levels of Nurture for Christian Growth:
  - a. God’s Word is the foundational catalyst for spiritual growth, 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Tim 3:14-17; cf. Deut 32:45-47.
  - b. The Holy Spirit, Rom 8:16; cf. Gal 5:25
  - c. Other Christians:
    - 1) The evangelist, John 15:16
    - 2) Another Christian, 1 Cor 3:6
    - 3) The local church, 1 Thess 5:11

## Metaphors for the Christian Life

Introduction: Watchman Nee wrote *Sit, Walk, Stand*,<sup>1443</sup> which consists of a commentary on Ephesians in which he sets “forth the believers position in Christ, his life in the world, and his attitude to the enemy.” (p. viii) His title provided the seed thought for this study.

### 1. WALK:

- a. Walking and the Godhead:
  - 1) Walking with God, Gen 5:24
  - 2) Walk in Christ, Col 2:6-7
  - 3) Walking in the Spirit, 2 Cor. 10:3; Gal 5:16, 25
  - 4) Walking to please God, 1 Thess 4:1
- b. Walk in a manner worthy:
  - 1) Of God, 1 Thess 2:12
  - 2) Of the Lord, Col 1:10
  - 3) Of the calling, Eph 4:1-3
- c. Walking and light:
  - 1) Walking with Christ is walking in the light, John 8:12
  - 2) Walking in the light of God’s countenance, Psa 89:15
  - 3) Walk as children of light, Eph 5:8
  - 4) Walk in the light, 1 Jn 1:7
- d. Aspects of the walk:
  - 1) Walking in love, Eph 5:2, 2 Jn 6
  - 2) Walking by faith, 2 Cor 5:7
  - 3) Walking in newness of life, Rom 6:4
  - 4) Walk uprightly, Psa 84:11
  - 5) Walk wisely, Eph 5:15
  - 6) Walking with perseverance, Isa 40:31
- e. Walking and the Bible:
  - 1) Walk as Christ walked, 1 Jn 2:6
  - 2) Walk in God’s ways, Deut 8:6; 10:12; 11:22; 19:9; 26:17; 28:19; 30:16; Psa 119:3; 128:1
  - 3) Walk in God’s truth, Psa 86:11
  - 4) Walk according to the commandments, 2 Jn 6; “Make me walk in the path of Thy commandments,” Psa 119:35
  - 5) Walk in the Law of the Lord, Psa 119:1; cf. Psa 78:10
  - 6) Walk in God’s judgments, Psa 89:30
  - 7) Walk according to the pattern of good men, Phil 3:17
- f. Walking and sin:
  - 1) Not to walk according to the flesh, Rom 8:4
  - 2) Not walking in the counsel of the ungodly, Psa 1:1
  - 3) Walking in white, Rev 3:6

### 2. RUN (cf. Hab 2:2, Gal 5:7):

- a. Running in God’s ways, Psa 119:32
- b. Running with perseverance, Isa 40:31
- c. Running with endurance, Heb 12:1
- d. Running to win, 1 Cor 9:26-27
- e. Running victoriously, 2 Sam 22:30 (cf. Psa 18:29)
- f. Running in vain, Gal 2:2; Phil 2:16

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<sup>1443</sup>Watchman Nee *Sit, Walk, Stand* (Fort Washington, PA; Christian Literature Crusade, 1957).



**3. WAIT:**

- a. The Command to Wait on the Lord, Psa 27:14; 37:34; 46:10; Hos 12:6:
  - 1) The practice of waiting, Psa 37:3-6
  - 2) The attitudes of waiting, Psa 84:1-4; Isa 26:8
- b. Affirmations of waiting on the Lord, Psa 25:5; 130:5-6
- c. Waiting on God's Word, Psa 119:147 (cf. Psa 130:5, Isa 26:8)
- d. Results of waiting on the Lord:
  - 1) Renewed strength, Isa 40:30-31
  - 2) Keep from shame, Psa 25:3

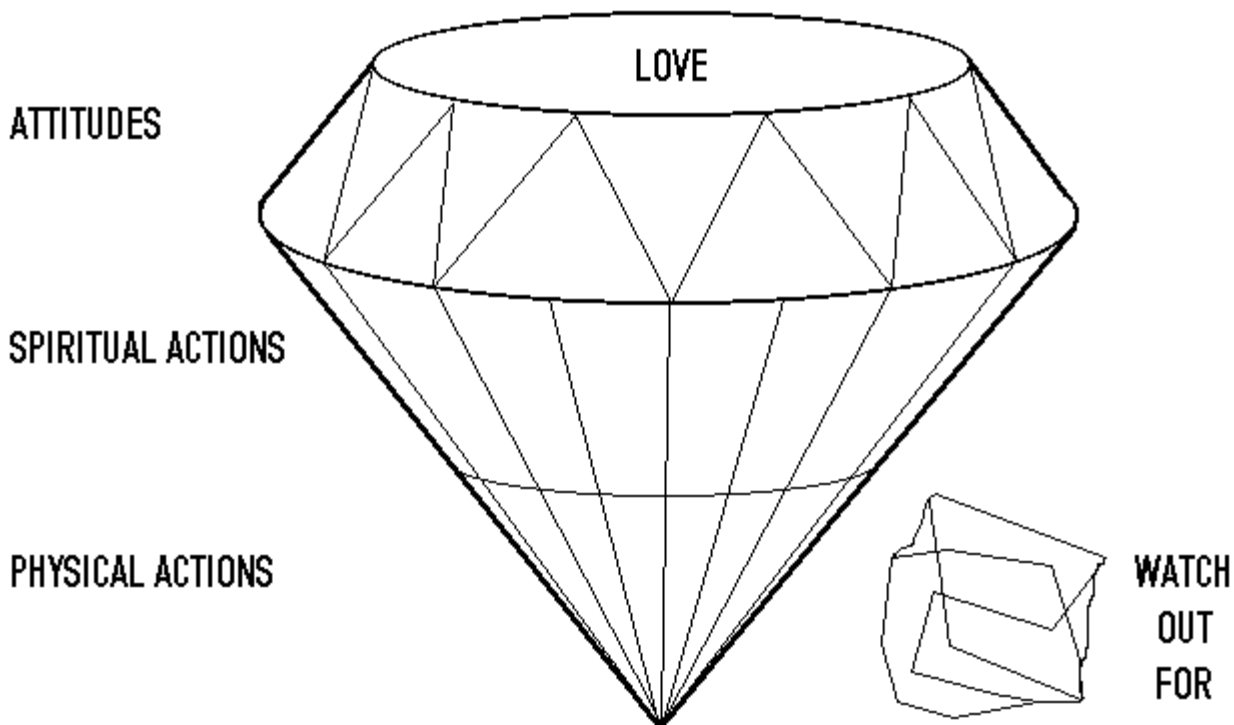
**4. STAND:**

- a. Aspects of standing firm:
  - 1) The admonition to stand firm, Gal 5:1, Eph 6:11, 13, 14; 2 Thess 2:15
  - 2) The condition of standing firm, 1 Thess 3:8
  - 3) God's assistance in standing firm, Jude 24-25 (cf. Rom 14:4)
- b. That in which we should stand firm:
  - 1) The Lord, Phil 4:1
  - 2) The faith, Rom 11:20; 1 Cor 16:13; 2 Cor 1:24
  - 3) The grace of God, Rom 5:2; 1 Pet 5:12
  - 4) The Gospel, 1 Cor 15:1-2
  - 5) The traditions which were taught, 2 Thess 2:15
- c. Standing and unity: Phil 1:27
- d. Standing and sin: Not "standing in the way of sinners," Psa 1:1

## The “One Another” Commands in the New Testament

Introduction In Galatians 6:10 Paul states, “So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

- a. A priority is established for relationships within the body of Christ.
- b. An enlargement of Psa 37:27, “Depart from evil *and do good*, so you will abide forever.”
- c. Paul in 1 Timothy 3:15 states, “...I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the support and pillar of truth.” The following from God’s Word is how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God.
- d. The following study highlights specific commands in the NT that include the reflexive term ἀλλήλων or in English “one another.”



1. Developing a Loving Attitude:
  - a. Attitudes we need to cultivate as Christians:
    - 1) Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, 1 Pet 5:5
    - 2) Have the same mind towards one another, Rom 12:16
    - 3) Accept one another, Rom 15:7
    - 4) Be devoted to one another, Rom 12:10
    - 5) Be subject to one another, Eph 5:21
    - 6) Regard the other as more important than yourself, Phil 2:3
    - 7) Bear with one another, Eph 4:2, Col 3:13
    - 8) Show forbearance for one another, Eph 4:1-2
    - 9) Live at peace with one another, 1 Thess 5:13
  - b. Attitudes to watch out for:
    - 1) Watch out for a critical spirit, Rom 14:13 (cf. Heb 12:14-15; Rom 2:1-3)
    - 2) Watch out for envy, Gal 5:26

- c. The all encompassing attitude of love (cf. Matt 22:36-40):
  - 1) Love one another, John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; Rom 13:8; 1 Pet 1:22; 4:8; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 5; cf. Heb 13:1:
    - a) Love defined, “As I have loved you,” John 13:34-35; 15:12
    - b) Extent of love explained, “Fervently love one another,” 1 Pet 1:22; 4:8
  - 2) Love is an obligation:
    - a) Rom 13:8, it is something we owe our brother
    - b) 1 John 3:11; 4:11, “we should love one another.”
2. Living Out a Loving Attitude:
  - a. General spiritual actions towards one another in the body of Christ (cf. 1 Thess 5:14):
    - 1) Build up one another, Rom 14:19; 1 Thess 5:11
    - 2) Admonish one another, Rom 15:14; Col 3:16 (teaching and admonishing)
    - 3) Encourage one another, 1 Thess 5:11; Heb 3:13
  - b. Specific spiritual actions towards one another in the body of Christ:
    - 1) Speaking to one another with psalms, Eph 5:19
    - 2) Comfort one another, 1 Thess 4:18
    - 3) Bear one another’s burdens, Gal 6:2
    - 4) Confess your sins to one another, James 5:16
    - 5) Consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, Heb 10:24
    - 6) Pray for one another, James 5:16
  - c. Physical actions towards one another in the body of Christ:
    - 1) Greet one another with a holy kiss, Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Pet 5:14 (“kiss of love”)
    - 2) Care for one another 1 Cor 12:25
    - 3) Serve one another, Gal 5:13; 1 Pet 4:10
    - 4) Give preference to one another, Rom 12:10
    - 5) Be hospitable to one another, 1 Pet 4:9; cf. Heb 13:2
    - 6) Have fellowship with one another, 1 John 1:7
    - 7) Be kind to one another, Eph 4:32
  - d. Some things to watch for:
    - 1) Watch your words:
      - a) Do not speak against one another, James 4:11 (cf. Prov 26:18-26)
      - b) Do not complain against one another, James 5:9
      - c) Do not lie to one another, Col 3:9 (cf. John 8:44)
      - d) Do not provoke one another, Gal 5:26
      - e) Do not bite and devour one another, Gal 5:15 (cf. Prov 11:10; 18:21)
      - f) Do not consume one another, Gal 5:15
    - 2) Watch your actions: Do not repay evil for evil, 1 Thess 5:15
  - e. The results of living out a loving attitude:
    - 1) 1 John 4:12, love for one another proves that God abides in us and is perfecting His love in us.
    - 2) 2 Thess 1:3, growth in faith is made evident through growth in love, which can be observed.
    - 3) 1 Thess 4:9-10, the practice of love is clearly visible.
    - 4) John 13:35, visible love is a witness to the world of an authentic disciple of Christ.
3. Material Dimensions to Christian Relationships, Matt 25:31-46; 1 Cor 16:1-3; 2 Cor 12:15; 1 John 3:17:
  - a. Who these commands refer to: “brothers of Mine,” “for the saints,” “You [those in the Corinthian church],” “his brother.”
  - b. Helping financially, 1 John 3:17
  - c. The cost of closing one’s eyes:
    - 1) Judgment, Prov 21:13; 28:27; Matt 25: 25:31-46
    - 2) No manifestation of God’s love, 1 John 3:17

