JESUS PRAYED

Mt 14:23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, RSV

Lu 6:12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. RSV

Heb 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. RSV



JESUS PRAYED

Mt 14:23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, RSV

Lu 6:12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. RSV

Heb 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. RSV



SERIES Session 7

Oct 4, 2024

Zoom Group Session

God

OF Faith
OF God

Discernment unto Maturity

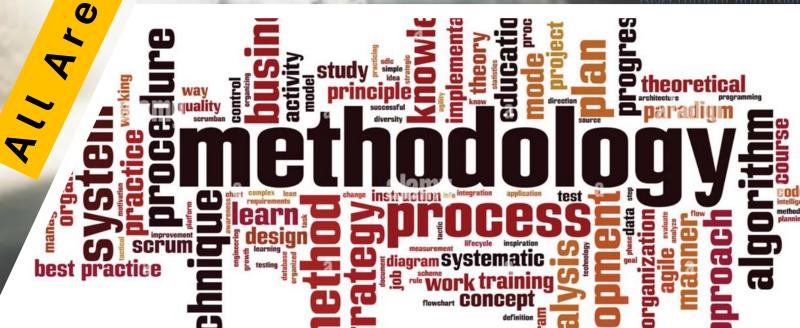
Experiential Christianity

SERIES Session 7

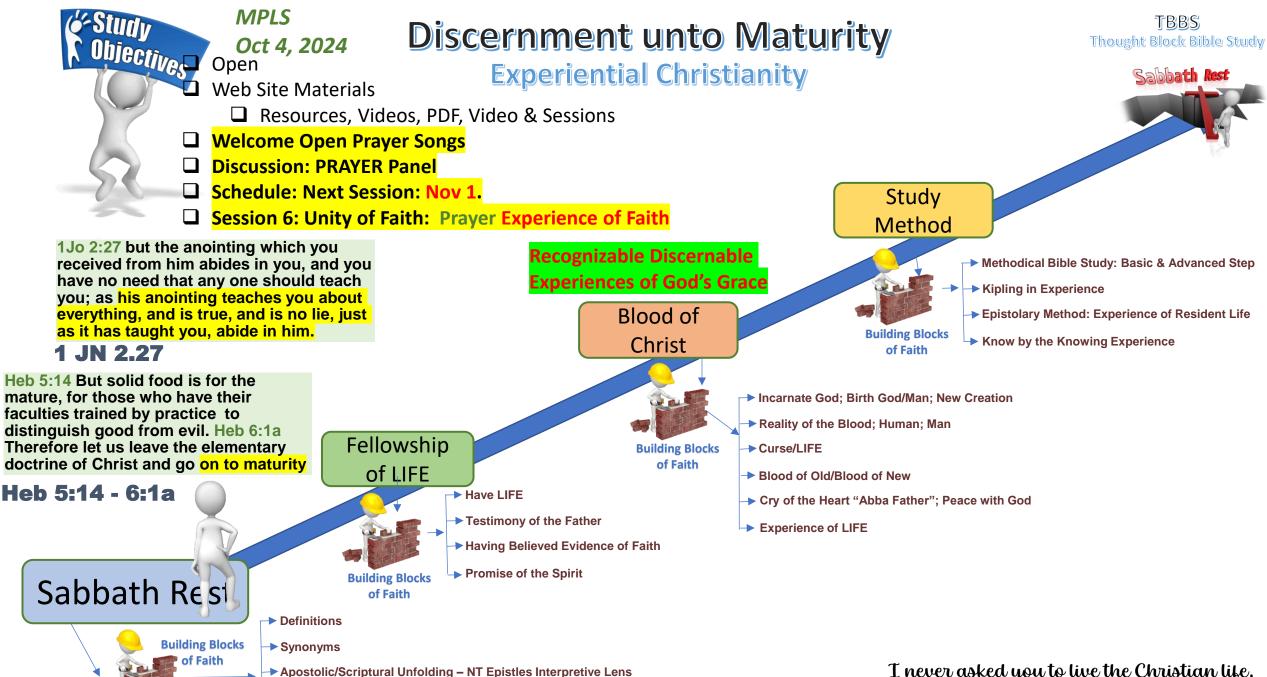
he LIFE Of GOD

TRUE GOD

Discernment unto Maturity

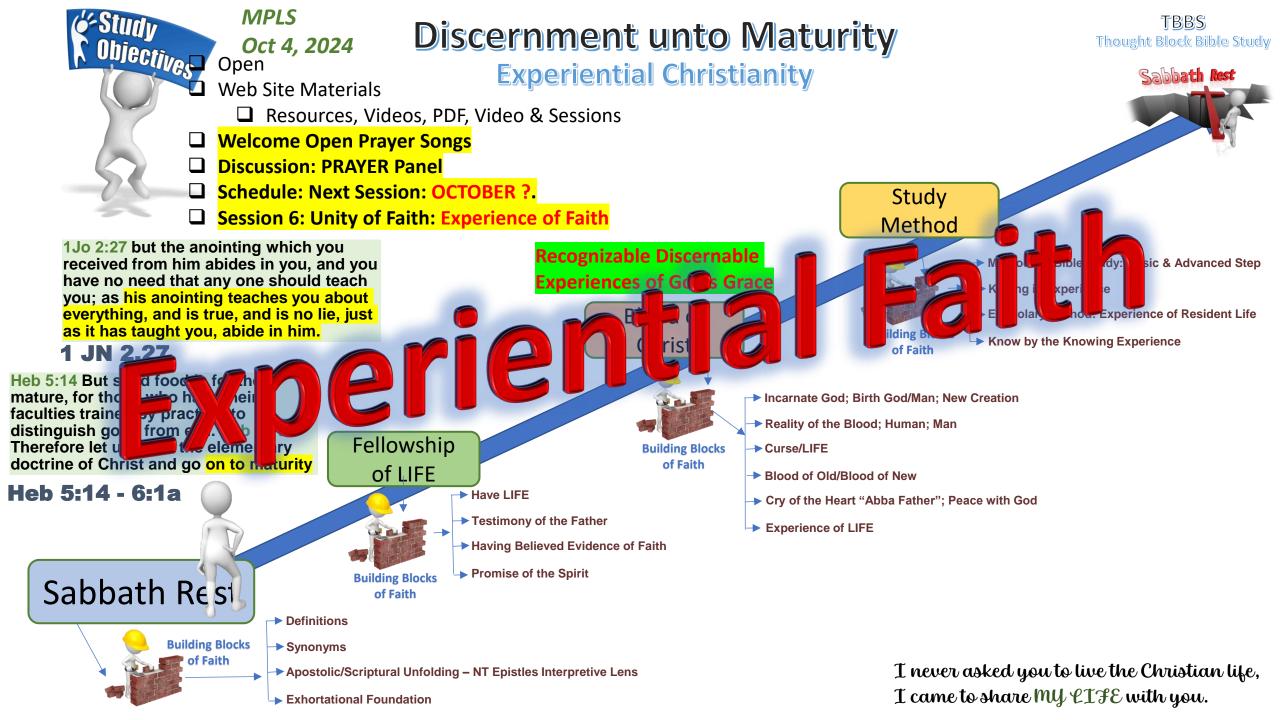


WELCOME



Exhortational Foundation

I never asked you to live the Christian life, I came to share MY LIFE with you.



LINK

Power Through Prayer



Article Talk

LINK

Q oo Create account Log in •••

≡ Edward McKendree Bounds

ndree Bounds %A 3 languages >

Read Edit View history Tools >

From Wikinedia, the free encyclopedia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Edward McKendree Bounds (August 15, 1835 – August 24, 1913) prominently known as E.M. Bounds, was an American author, attorney, and member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South clergy. He is known for writing 11 books, nine of which focused on the subject of prayer. Only two of Bounds' books were published before he died. After his death, Rev. Claudius (Claude) Lysias Chilton, Jr., grandson of William Parish Chilton and admirer of Bounds, worked on preserving and preparing Bounds' collection of manuscripts for publication. By 1921, Homer W. Hodge completed additional editional work.

Early life [edit]

Edward McKendree Bounds was born on August 15, 1835, in Shelbyville, Missouri, the son of Thomas Jefferson and Hester A. (née Purneti) Bounds (1921) in the preface to E.M. Bounds on Prayer, published by Hendrickson Christian Classics Series over 90 years after Bounds' death, it is surmised that young Edward was named after the evangelist, William McKendree, who planted churches in western Missouri and served as the fourth bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.^[1] He was the fifth child, in a family of three sons and three daughters.^[1]

Thomas Jefferson Bounds was one of the original settlers of Shelby County, Prior to organizing the County, Thomas Bounds served as the first Justice of the Peace [3] In April 1835, he was named County Clerk, followed by an appointment to serve as the County Commissioner in December 1835[3] In 1836, he began holding circuit court in his home, during the third term each year [3] In his capacity as County Commissioner, he platted the town into blocks and lots for new settlers [3] In 1840, he advanced the building of the First Methodist Church. In 1849, Thomas contracted tuberculosis and dief [4][5]



E. M. Bounds

Clergy, attorney, author

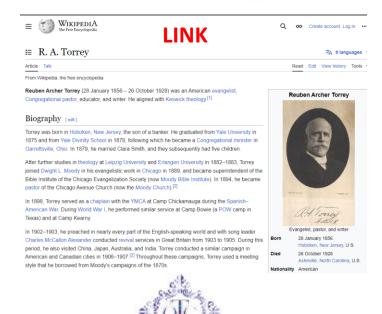
Edward M. Bounds, Edward M. (1835-1913)

www.ccel.org Public Domain

LINK

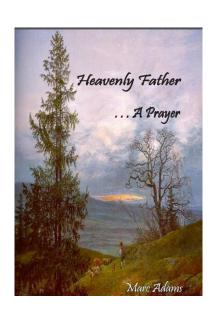
How to Pray

R.A. Torrey



LIN

A Prayer to the God of My Life



JESUS PRAYED

Christian History Institute

LINK



Lilias Trotter

Explore the life of Lilias Trotter. This set includes the DVD Many Beautiful Things and Christian History magazine #148 on Lilias Trotter.





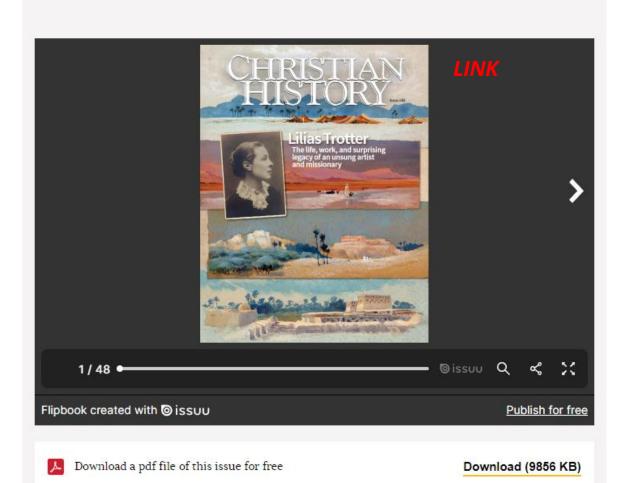
BACK ISSUES

RESOURCE GUIDES

SUBSCRIBE

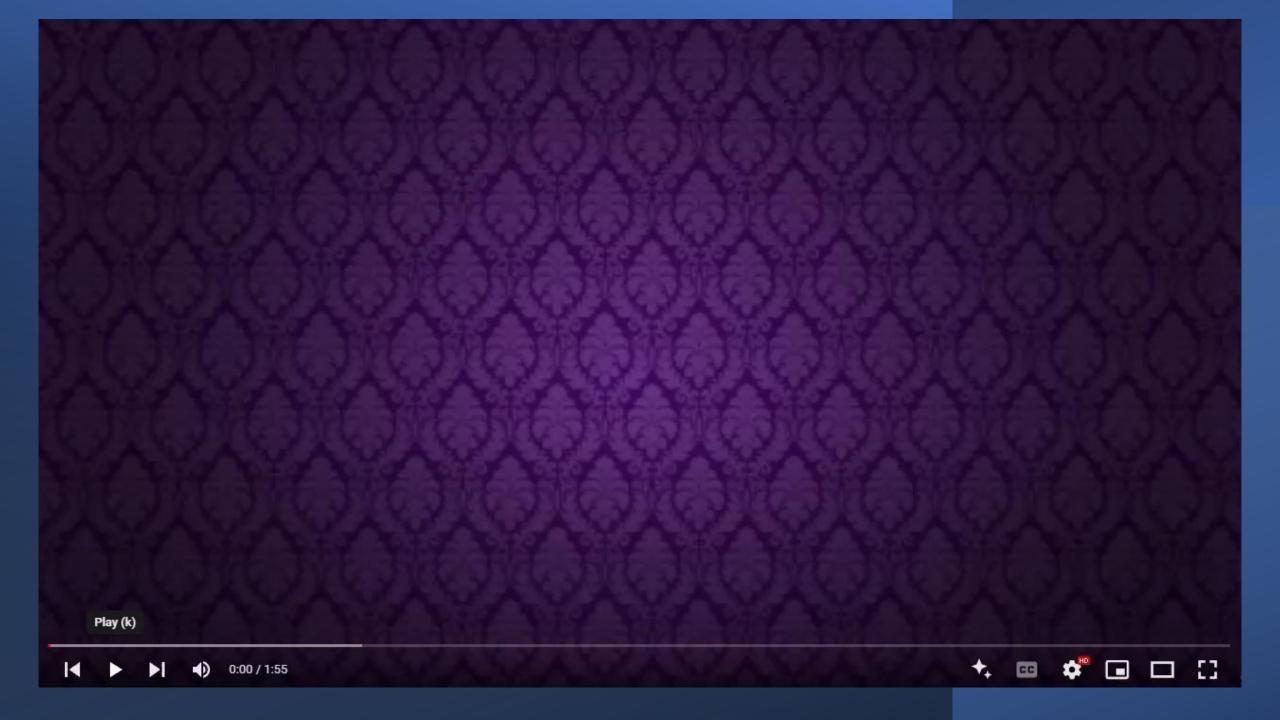
Issue 148

Lilias Trotter

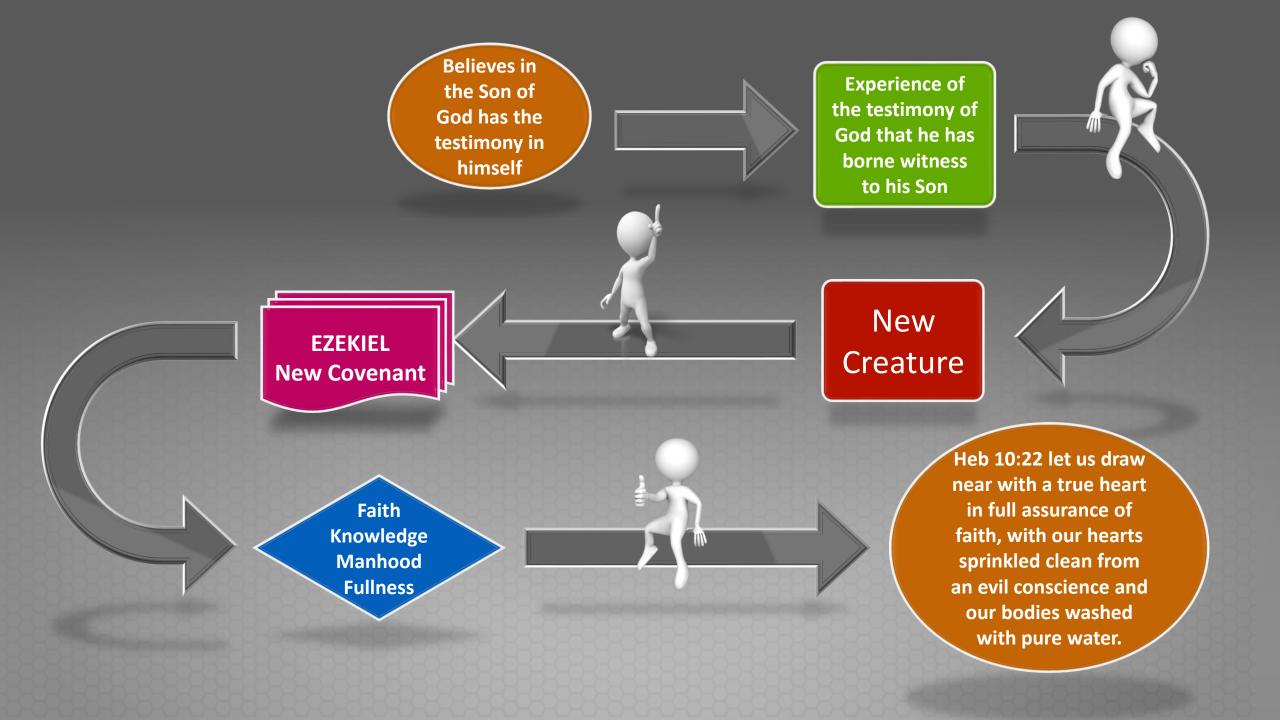


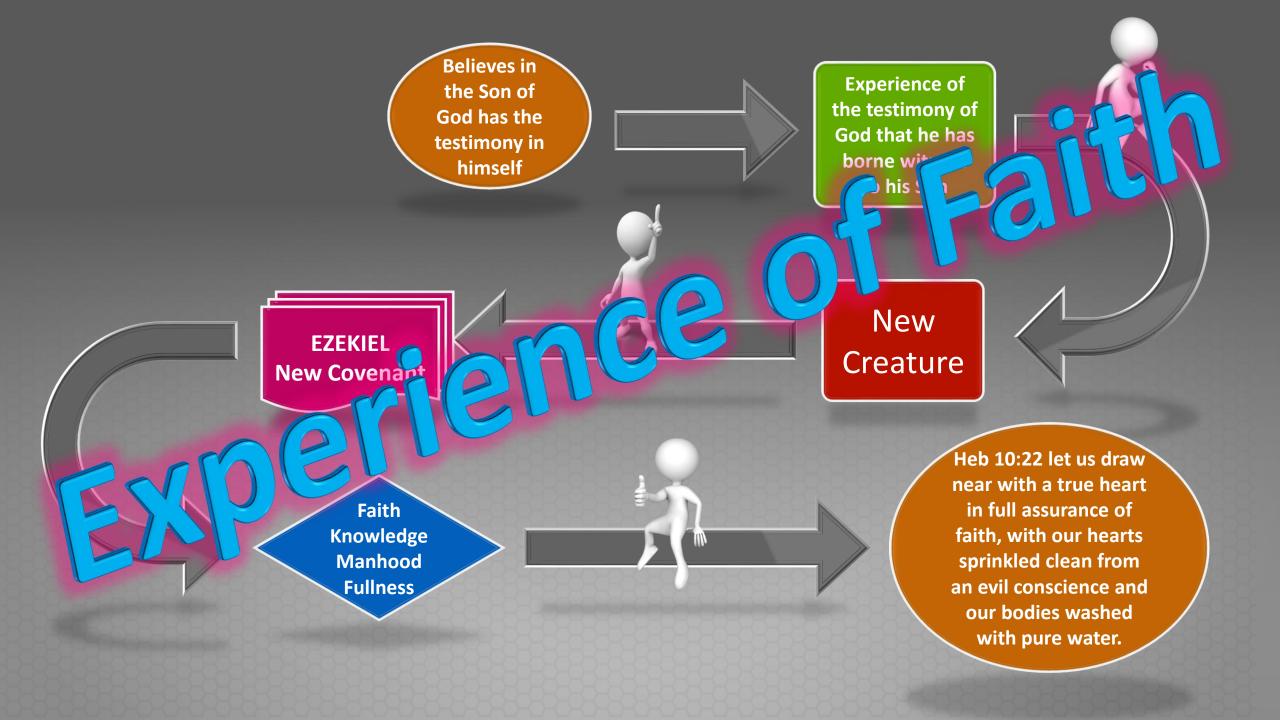
THANK YOU LORD FOR SAVING MY SOUL

Thank You Lord For Saving My Soul - Seth & Bessie Sykes (Lyrics)

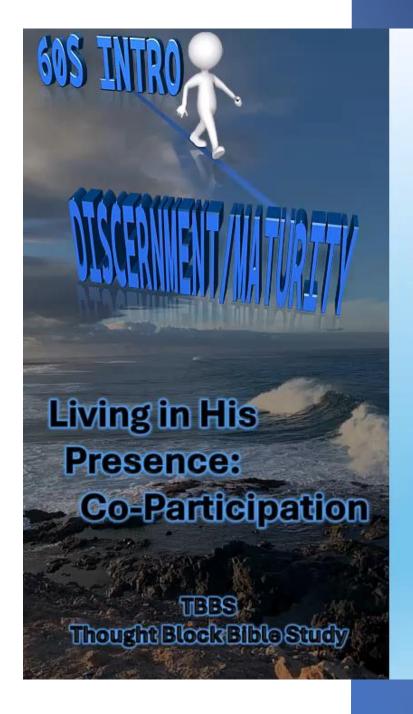








LINK



Living in His Presence: Embracing God's Grace and Co-Participation in His Life

Discernment unto Maturity Session 6 focuses on spiritual growth, the transformative power of God's grace, and the importance of unity and discernment in faith. It encourages believers to deepen their understanding and experience of God's grace as an essence of His being, not just as an attribute. Through scriptural study and experiential knowledge, participants are exhorted to grow in spiritual maturity and unity, co-participating in the life of God. Themes include the development of spiritual faculties like discernment, the recognition of God's grace in daily life, and the importance of communal spiritual growth. Directives are given to reflect on personal experiences of grace, testify to God's work, and engage in spiritual fellowship. The study highlights God's grace as the primary means of transformation and urges believers to trust in God's sustaining grace, rejoice in unity with Him, and seek deeper personal knowledge and relationship with God.

These points capture the main themes, topics, concepts, directives, exhortations, and encouragements presented in the DM Session 6.

This structured approach to the session's content provides a comprehensive overview of the theological insights and practical applications discussed, aimed at deepening our faith and understanding.

Main Themes:

- Transformative Power of God's Grace: The transcript emphasizes grace as a transformative force in believers' lives, viewing it as the essence of God rather than merely an attribute. It highlights how grace shapes thoughts, actions, and spiritual selfawareness, leading to spiritual growth and maturity.
- 2. Unity in Faith and Spiritual Fellowship: Unity is presented as essential to spiritual growth, encouraging believers to co-participate in the life of God and share their experiences with one another, thereby strengthening the body of Christ.
- 3. Spiritual Maturity and Discernment: The journey from discernment to maturity is a central focus, encouraging believers to develop spiritual faculties and exercise discernment in their faith, leading to greater understanding of God's will and deeper experiential knowledge.
- 4. Experiential Knowledge of God: The transcript stresses the importance of experiencing God personally, beyond doctrinal or intellectual understanding, urging believers to encounter God's presence and grace in daily life.
- 5. Co-Participation in the Life of God: Believers are called to recognize their role as coparticipants in God's life, manifesting His nature and sharing in His mission.

Main Topics:

- 1. The Essence of Grace: Explores whether grace is an attribute or the core essence of God, discussing its role in spiritual transformation and salvation.
- Recognizing Personal Experiences of Grace: Encourages reflection on how believers have experienced God's grace, understanding it as evidence of His transformative power and presence.
- Unity and Fellowship in the Body of Christ: Emphasizes the importance of unity through shared experiences and testimony, fostering growth and support within the faith community.

Main Concepts:

- 1. Grace as the Life of God: Grace is described as an extension of God's own life, shaping believers and bringing them into closer fellowship with Him.
- The New Heart and Spirit: Drawn from Ezekiel, this concept represents the transformation of believers into new creations who embody God's essence.
- 3. Faith Beyond Doctrine: Faith should not rely solely on intellectual beliefs but be grounded in a personal, experiential relationship with God.
- 4. Discernment and Spiritual Faculties: Discernment is portrayed as a crucial aspect of spiritual maturity, helping believers distinguish God's truth from distractions.

Directives:

- Reflect on Personal Experiences of Grace: Participants are directed to reflect on specific moments where they have encountered God's grace and consider how these experiences shape their understanding of God.
- Testify to God's Work: Believers are urged to share their testimonies and experiences of grace as an act of worship and as a means of strengthening the faith community.
- 3. Seek Deeper Knowledge and Relationship with God: Participants are encouraged to pursue a deeper understanding of God through prayer, scriptural study, and personal reflection.
- 4. Engage in Spiritual Fellowship: Participants are called to actively engage in fellowship, sharing their experiences and supporting one another in spiritual growth.

Exhortations:

- Pursue Spiritual Maturity: The transcript urges believers to actively pursue spiritual growth, using their discernment and spiritual faculties to grow closer to God.
- 2. Embrace and Manifest God's Grace: Believers are encouraged to embrace the grace they have received, allowing it to transform them and manifest in their interactions with others.
- 3. Trust in God's Sustaining Grace: Participants are exhorted to trust in God's grace to sustain them through challenges, reminding them of its unshakable nature and reliability.
- Rejoice in Unity with God and One Another: Rejoicing in the unity shared through faith is emphasized as an expression of gratitude and worship.

Encouragements:

- 1. Be Bold in Testifying and Sharing God's Grace: Believers are encouraged to confidently share their experiences of God's grace and testify to its transformative power.
- 2. Recognize God's Presence in Daily Life: The session encourages participants to recognize and celebrate God's grace in everyday moments, fostering a continuous awareness of His presence.
- 3. Rest in the Assurance of God's Grace: Participants are comforted with the assurance that God's grace is sufficient and that they are secure in their relationship with Him.
- Strive for Unity and Co-Participation: Believers are inspired to strive for unity within the body of Christ, co-participating in God's mission and sharing His love with the world.

Overall, the transcript serves as a comprehensive guide for believers to deepen their understanding of grace, grow in spiritual maturity, and foster unity and fellowship within the faith community.



Prayer: Our Bible study session DM 6

The themes and prayer focuses provide a structured way for us to engage with the spiritual insights from the session and apply them in their personal prayer life.

This structured approach to the session's content provides a comprehensive overview of the theological insights and practical applications discussed, aimed at deepening our faith and understanding.

1. Spiritual Growth and Maturity

Key Theme:

The session encourages believers to progress from discernment to spiritual maturity, developing spiritual faculties such as discernment, wisdom, and understanding. Participants are called to pursue growth in their knowledge and experience of God, and to be transformed into the fullness of Christ's image.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's will and purpose in daily life.
- Ask God to reveal areas that need growth and to provide the wisdom to discern between God's truth and distractions.
- Pray for the strength and courage to actively pursue spiritual maturity and to become more like Christ.

Suggested Prayer:

"Lord, we thank You for the opportunity to grow in our faith and understanding of who You are. Guide us in our journey toward spiritual maturity. Grant us discernment to recognize Your truth and to reject distractions that hinder our growth. Help us to embrace the fullness of Your life, becoming more like Christ in every way. May we be transformed from glory to glory by Your Spirit, and may we walk confidently in the path You have set before us. Amen."

2. Experiencing and Manifesting God's Grace

Key Theme:

The transcript focuses on the transformative power of God's grace and encourages participants to experience it as a part of God's essence, manifesting His grace in their interactions with others. Participants are invited to reflect on and recognize moments of grace in their lives, allowing God's grace to shape their actions and relationships.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for a deeper personal experience of God's grace in daily life, recognizing it as a reflection of His nature.
- Ask for the ability to manifest that grace in interactions with others, bringing peace, love, and kindness.
- Pray for the strength to respond to challenges and difficult situations with the grace and love of God.

Suggested Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, we are grateful for Your grace that sustains and transforms us. Help us to experience Your grace more fully in every area of our lives. May we reflect Your love, peace, and kindness in all our relationships and respond to every situation with Your grace. Teach us to recognize Your hand in every moment and to be witnesses of Your grace to others. Amen."

3. Unity and Fellowship in the Body of Christ

Key Theme:

Unity among believers is highlighted as a crucial aspect of spiritual growth. The session emphasizes the importance of co-participation in God's life and shared experiences within the faith community. It encourages participants to build each other up through testimony and mutual support, fostering deeper fellowship and unity.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for unity within the body of Christ, rooted in a shared understanding and experience of God's life and grace.
- Ask God to strengthen the bonds of fellowship among believers and to foster genuine connections and mutual support.
- Pray for the courage and humility to share personal testimonies of God's grace, contributing to the spiritual growth of the entire community.

Suggested Prayer:

"Father, we pray for unity within the body of Christ. Help us to be bound together by Your Spirit and to support one another in our journey of faith. May our shared experiences of Your grace draw us closer and inspire us to testify to Your goodness and love. Strengthen our fellowship, and may our unity be a testimony to the world of Your transformative power. In Jesus' name, Amen."

4. Trust and Confidence in God's Sustaining Grace

Key Theme:

The session calls participants to trust fully in God's grace, which is portrayed as unshakable and sustaining in all circumstances. Participants are encouraged to rest in the assurance that God's grace will carry them through challenges, and that His presence within them is a source of strength and confidence.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for a greater understanding of God's sustaining grace and its power to carry believers through every situation.
- Ask for the faith to trust God fully, letting go of worries and resting in the assurance of His grace.
- Pray for a deep confidence in God's presence within, unshakable in times of trial and uncertainty.

Suggested Prayer:

"Lord, we thank You for the gift of Your unshakable and sustaining grace. Help us to trust You more deeply, knowing that Your grace is sufficient in every circumstance. May we rest in the assurance of Your presence and draw strength and confidence from You. Teach us to lean not on our own understanding, but to rely fully on Your sustaining power. In every season, may we be grounded in the knowledge that You are with us, guiding us every step of the way. Amen."

The themes and prayer focuses provide a structured way for us to engage with the spiritual insights from the session and apply them in their personal prayer life.

This structured approach to the session's content provides a comprehensive overview of the theological insights and practical applications discussed, aimed at deepening our faith and understanding.

5. Discernment and the Development of Spiritual Faculties

Key Theme:

Participants are exhorted to develop their spiritual faculties, especially discernment, which allows them to distinguish God's truth from distractions. Discernment is seen as a pathway to deeper spiritual understanding and maturity.

Prayer Points:

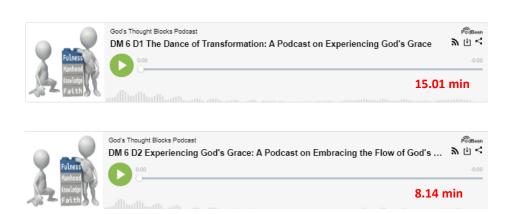
- Pray for the development of spiritual discernment and the ability to distinguish God's voice from other influences.
- Ask God to sharpen participants' spiritual senses, leading them to greater wisdom and understanding of His truth.
- Pray for the boldness to act on God's guidance and to apply discernment in making decisions that honor Him.

Suggested Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, we seek Your guidance as we grow in our spiritual discernment. Sharpen our spiritual senses, and help us to recognize Your voice and truth in all circumstances. Give us the wisdom and courage to make decisions that align with Your will and honor Your name. May our discernment lead us closer to You and enable us to walk in the fullness of Your wisdom and understanding. Amen."

These prayer themes and points reflect the key areas discussed in the transcript and provide a structure for participants to engage deeply with God, both individually and as a community.





Prophetic Foundational Sources

Eze 36. 25-27

The Father has qualified us!

Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

sprinkle clean water upon you

clean from all your uncleannesses

all your idols I will cleanse you

A new heart

new spirit I will put within you

take out of your flesh the heart of stone

give you a heart of flesh

put my spirit within you

cause you to walk in my statutes

be careful to observe my ordinances



Eph 4.11-13 **Unity of the Faith Knowledge of the Son of God Mature Manhood** Measure of the stature of the Fullness of Christ Hebrews **Ephesians** Colossians Galatians 1 John

OUR INTERPRETIVE LENS

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

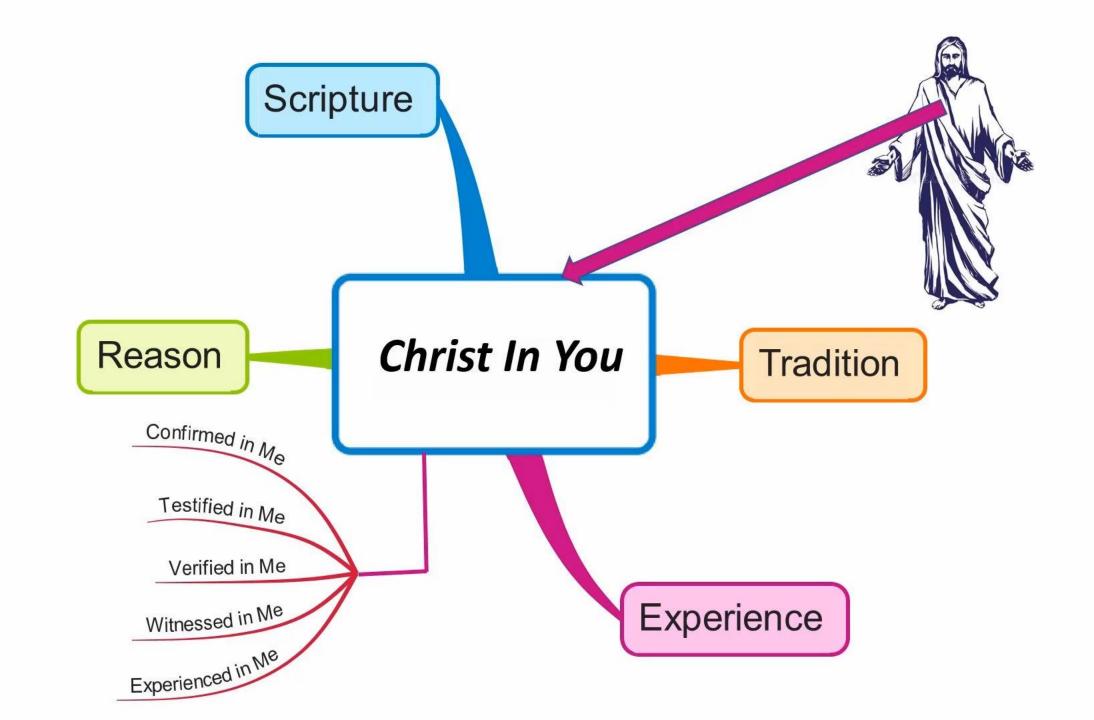
11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call the brethren,

12 saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee."

He has separated us from sinners!

HOW SO?

Heb 7:26 For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners exalted above the heavens. (RSV)



every man mature in Christ

Discernment unto Maturity

Experiential Christianity

Until we all attain to the

Eph 4.11-13

Unity of the Faith

Prophetically Fulfilled
Scripturally Illustrated
Experientially Manifest

God now speaks to us by His SON

Prophetic Foundational Sources OT?

Eze 36, 25-27

The Father has qualified us! col 1.12

sprinkle clean water upon you
clean from all your uncleannesses
all your idols I will cleanse you

A new heart

new spirit I will put within you

take out of your flesh the heart of stone

give you a heart of flesh

put my spirit within you

cause you to walk in my statutes

be careful to observe my ordinances

Jesus Life Christ Life Christ Alone Repentance & Kindness Love of Compassion Faith Lord Truth





Hebrews

Ephesians

Colossians

Galatians

1 John

The Epistle to the Ephesians provides a rich theological framework for understanding the concepts of grace, belief, and faith in the context of a believer's personal and experiential life in Christ. Let's analyze these terms and their significance in the spiritual maturation process.

This structured approach to the session's content provides a comprehensive overview of the theological insights and practical applications discussed, aimed at deepening our faith and understanding.

Grace

Grace is a foundational concept in Ephesians, representing God's unmerited favor and love towards believers. It is the driving force behind salvation and spiritual growth.

Paul emphasizes that salvation is entirely a gift from God, not something earned through human effort. This divine grace is lavished upon believers, enabling them to experience spiritual blessings and redemption.

Impact on the believer's life:

- Initiates salvation
- Empowers spiritual growth
- Provides access to God's blessings
- Motivates grateful living and good works

Belief

Belief in Ephesians refers to the act of trusting in Christ and accepting the gospel message. It is the human response to God's grace and the means by which salvation is appropriated. Belief is not merely intellectual assent but a transformative commitment that shapes one's entire life.

Role in the believer's experience:

- Activates salvation
- Seals believers with the Holy Spirit
- Initiates a new life in Christ
- Shapes worldview and behavior

Faith

Faith in Ephesians is closely related to belief but emphasizes ongoing trust and reliance on Christ. It is the channel through which grace operates in the believer's life and the foundation for spiritual growth. Faith is both a gift from God and a responsibility of the believer to nurture and strengthen.

Importance in spiritual maturation:

- Provides stability amidst spiritual challenges
- Enables understanding of spiritual truths
- Facilitates bold access to God
- Serves as a shield against spiritual attacks

Relationship and Relative Importance

The relationship between grace, belief, and faith in the believer's journey towards maturity can be understood as follows:

- Grace as the Foundation: God's grace is the initiating and sustaining force in the believer's life. It provides the opportunity for salvation and empowers ongoing spiritual growth.
- Belief as the Entry Point: The act of believing in Christ is the initial response to God's grace, marking the beginning of the Christian life.
- 3. Faith as the Ongoing Dynamic: Faith becomes the operative principle in the believer's life, enabling continued growth and maturity in Christ.

Progression Towards Maturity

Ephesians outlines a progression towards spiritual maturity that involves these concepts:

- Initial Transformation: Believers are made alive in Christ through grace, responding with belief
- Spiritual Enlightenment: Through faith, believers gain deeper understanding of their calling and Christ's power.
- 3. Unity and Growth: Mature believers contribute to the unity and growth of the church body.
- Christlike Character: Believers put off the old self and put on the new self, reflecting Christ's character.
- 5. Spiritual Warfare: Mature faith equips believers to stand firm against spiritual opposition.

Throughout this process, grace remains the empowering force, belief the foundational response, and faith the ongoing mode of living that leads to maturity in Christ. As believers grow, they increasingly reflect God's love, unity, and holiness in their personal lives and within the church community.

every man mature in Christ

Discernment unto Maturity

Experiential Christianity

Until we all attain to the

Eph 4.11-13

Unity of the Faith

God now speaks to us by His SON

Prophetically Fulfilled
Scripturally Illustrated
Experientially Manifest

Prophetic Foundational Sources OT?

Eze 36, 25-27

The Father has qualified us! col 1.12

sprinkle clean water upon you

clean from all your uncleannesses

all your idols I will cleanse you

A new heart

new spirit I wil

take out of your nesh the heart of

it within

give you a heart of flesh

put my spirit within you

cause you to walk in my statutes

be careful to observe my ordinances





Hebrews

Ephesians

Colossians

Galatians

1 John

every man mature in Christ

Discernment unto Maturity

Experiential Christianity

Until we all attain to the

Eph 4.11-13

Unity of the Faith

God now speaks to us by His SON

Prophetically Fulfilled
Scripturally Illustrated
Experientially Manifest

Prophetic Foundational Sources OT?

Eze 36. 25-27

The Father has qualified us! col 1.12

sprinkle clean water upon you
clean from all your uncleannesses
all your idols I will cleanse you

A new heart

take out of your flesh the heart of stone

new spirit I will put within you

give you a heart of flesh

put my spirit within you

cause you to walk in my statutes

be careful to observe my ordinances

Experiential Faith

What is the context of our experience of faith?

What is INSIDE?

Context of Experience

Heb 11

Experiential Faith Heb 11

Understanding Faith in Hebrews 11

Heb "Go on unto Maturity – From Where?/What?

John's 'You Know' in the context of my Faith?

Paul's 'Christ my Life'.

Unity/Knowledge/Maturity/Fullness

How so in the context of my Faith?

Hebrews

Ephesians

Colossians

Galatians

1 John

Experiential Faith Heb 11



Hebrews Chapter 11, often referred to as the "Hall of Faith," highlights various individuals from the Old Testament who exemplified faith in God despite challenging circumstances. Each person listed demonstrates a distinct aspect of faith through their actions and experiences. Here's a comprehensive understanding of their personal experiences with faith, based on the chapter:

Abel: By faith, Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice to God than his brother Cain. His faith is demonstrated through the quality of his offering, and his righteousness is attested to by God accepting his gift. Though he was killed by Cain, his faith still speaks as an example of righteousness (Hebrews 11:4).

Enoch: Enoch's faith led to him being taken up by God without experiencing death. This was because he had pleased God, which is only possible through faith. His life testifies to the reality that faith enables one to walk closely with God (Hebrews 11:5-6).

Noah: Being warned about events not yet seen, Noah built an ark to save his family. His obedience and preparation for an unseen future condemned the world and earned him the title of heir of righteousness through faith (Hebrews 11:7).

Abraham: Abraham is considered the father of faith. He obeyed God's call to leave his homeland and go to an unknown place, which he would later receive as his inheritance. His journey symbolizes trust in God's promises. He lived as a sojourner, looking forward to the city with foundations designed and built by God. His faith is further highlighted when he was willing to offer up Isaac, believing that God could raise him from the dead if necessary (Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19).

Sarah: By faith, Sarah received the power to conceive, even when she was past childbearing age. She considered God faithful to His promise, and from her came descendants as numerous as the stars and the grains of sand (Hebrews 11:11-12).

Isaac: Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning their future, acknowledging the unfolding of God's plan. His faith recognized the significance of the blessing and its implications for the generations to come (Hebrews 11:20).

Isaac: Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning their future, acknowledging the unfolding of God's plan. His faith recognized the significance of the blessing and its implications for the generations to come (Hebrews 11:20).

Jacob: At the end of his life, Jacob blessed each of Joseph's sons, showing faith in God's future for his descendants. He bowed in worship, acknowledging God's promises even as he faced death (Hebrews 11:21).

Joseph: Near the end of his life, Joseph spoke of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial. His faith looked beyond his death to God's future deliverance of his people (Hebrews 11:22).

Moses: Moses' faith journey began when his parents hid him after birth, defying the king's edict. Later, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to suffer with God's people rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. His faith enabled him to leave Egypt without fear, keep the Passover, and lead the people across the Red Sea (Hebrews 11:23-29).

Rahab: Rahab, a prostitute, is commended for her faith because she welcomed the Israelite spies and helped them escape. Her actions demonstrated her belief in the power and authority of the God of Israel (Hebrews 11:31).

Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets: These figures are mentioned for their acts of faith that led to victories over kingdoms, administration of justice, fulfillment of promises, and triumphs over adversities. They subdued lions, quenched fire, and escaped the sword, demonstrating faith's power to achieve God's purposes despite personal weakness or external opposition (Hebrews 11:32-34).

Unnamed martyrs and persecuted individuals: The chapter concludes by acknowledging others who endured torture, mocking, scourging, chains, imprisonment, and even death. Their faith was shown in their endurance, their refusal to accept deliverance, and their hope in a better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35-38).

In summary, Hebrews 11 celebrates individuals who, through faith, overcame personal and collective trials, remained obedient to God's call, and looked forward to the fulfillment of His promises—even when they didn't receive them in their lifetimes. Their faith is presented as a source of encouragement for believers to persist in faith, trusting in God's ultimate plan and rewards.

Understanding Faith in Hebrews 11



Hebrews 11 begins with a definition of faith:

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1, RSV)(Hebrews Chapter 11 RSV).

This verse captures two essential aspects of faith:

- **1. Assurance of Things Hoped For**: Faith provides a firm foundation for hope, giving believers confidence in the future fulfillment of God's promises.
- 2. Conviction of Things Not Seen: Faith involves being certain of the reality of things that cannot be observed with the physical senses. It is a deep inner conviction that what God has said will come to pass, even if there is no physical evidence.

Personal Experience of Faith in Hebrews 11

Each individual mentioned in Hebrews 11 exemplifies faith through personal experiences that involve obedience, trust, and endurance in the face of uncertainties, challenges, or even death. Here's how faith manifested in their lives:

- 1. Abel: His faith led him to offer a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain. Abel's personal experience of faith was in worship, demonstrating his trust in God's standards and his willingness to give his best to God. Although Abel faced death because of his righteousness, his faith still "speaks" as an example of genuine devotion and commitment (Hebrews 11:4).
- **2. Enoch**: Enoch's life was marked by his close relationship with God. His experience of faith was shown in a life that pleased God, leading to him being taken up without experiencing death. This demonstrates a faith that went beyond obedience to an intimate fellowship with God (Hebrews 11:5).
- **Noah**: Noah's faith was expressed through his obedience in building an ark when warned of things not yet seen—a coming flood. His faith involved acting on God's word despite no physical signs of the impending disaster. His experience shows faith as trust in God's instructions and willingness to appear foolish to the world for the sake of obedience (Hebrews 11:7).
- **4. Abraham**: Abraham's faith journey involved leaving his homeland without knowing his destination and living as a stranger in the promised land. His faith was tested further when he was willing to offer up his son Isaac, believing that God could even raise the dead. His experience exemplifies a faith that goes beyond comfort and security, trusting in God's promises against all odds (Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19).
- 5. Sarah: Sarah's faith was shown in her belief that God could give her a child despite her old age. Her experience of faith involved overcoming doubt and trusting in God's ability to do the impossible. She received strength to conceive because she judged God faithful to fulfill His promise (Hebrews 11:11).

- 1. Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph: Their faith involved looking forward to future events and promises. Isaac blessed his sons concerning what was to come. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons while worshiping God in his old age. Joseph spoke of the exodus of Israel and gave directions about his bones. Their faith experiences show an unwavering belief in God's plan and promises for future generations, even beyond their own lifetimes (Hebrews 11:20-22).
- 2. Moses: Moses' faith is seen in his refusal to be identified as Pharaoh's son, choosing instead to suffer with the people of God. His experience of faith involved rejecting the temporary pleasures of sin and the treasures of Egypt, choosing instead the reproach of Christ because he was looking to a future reward. He also showed faith by keeping the Passover and leading Israel through the Red Sea (Hebrews 11:23-29).
- **3. Rahab**: Rahab's faith was shown in her hospitality and protection of the Israelite spies. Her experience of faith involved risking her life by siding with God's people despite her background as a foreigner and a prostitute. Her actions demonstrate faith as aligning oneself with God's purpose, even at great personal risk (Hebrews 11:31).
- **4. Other Heroes of Faith**: The chapter also mentions others like Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, who through faith accomplished mighty deeds and endured suffering. Their faith experiences include conquering kingdoms, enforcing justice, stopping the mouths of lions, quenching fire, and enduring torture and persecution. These examples show faith's power to achieve the impossible and remain steadfast under suffering (Hebrews 11:32-38).

Common Themes of Faith Experiences

The experiences of the individuals in Hebrews 11 reveal several themes:

- 1. Obedience to God's Word: Faith often required immediate action in response to God's instructions, even when the outcome was uncertain or defied human logic.
- **2. Trust in God's Promises**: Each person believed in God's promises, even when they did not see the fulfillment of those promises during their lifetime.
- **3. Looking to the Future**: Faith involved a forward-looking perspective, focusing on the eternal and the heavenly, not merely the present or the earthly.
- **4. Endurance through Trials**: Faith provided the strength to endure hardship, suffering, and persecution, always holding onto the hope of God's ultimate deliverance.
- **5. Confidence in the Unseen**: Each person acted with confidence in things not yet seen, whether it was the coming flood, the birth of a promised child, or a future resurrection.

These personal experiences illustrate that faith is not merely intellectual assent but involves a deep trust and reliance on God, leading to concrete actions that reflect that trust. Through their examples, Hebrews 11 encourages believers to hold fast to faith, even when the fulfillment of God's promises seems distant.







• The question is:

• The question is:

