

## **The God of Inconsistency**

By

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*(Emphasis added)*

*God is not consistent. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that He is the God of consistency. In fact, it is the inconsistency of God that helps to shape His children. In this teaching we will explore this little known fact about God.*

*God created human beings with the potential to become like the angels and replace those He lost when Lucifer fell and one third of the angels followed him. These fallen angels became Satan and his demon spirits, (see Isaiah 14:12-15, Matthew 22:29-30, Luke 10:18, Revelation 12:3-4 and 7-9).*

### **Isaiah 14:12-15 -**

12           **“How you are fallen from heaven,**

**O Lucifer, son of the morning!**

*How you are cut down to the ground,*

*You who weakened the nations!*

13           For you have said in your heart:

*‘I will ascend into heaven,*

*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;*

*I will also sit on the mount of the congregation*

*On the farthest sides of the north;*

14           I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

*I will be like the Most High.’*

15           Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,

To the lowest depths of the Pit.<sup>1</sup>

### **Luke 10:18 -**

<sup>18</sup>And He said to them, **“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”<sup>2</sup>**

### **Matthew 22:29-30 -**

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, **“Your problem is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God.”<sup>30</sup> For when the dead rise, they won’t be married. They will be like the angels in heaven.<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

<sup>2</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

<sup>3</sup>*Holy Bible, New Living Translation, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.*

**Revelation 12:3-4 -**

<sup>3</sup>And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. **4His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.** And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.<sup>4</sup>

**Revelation 12:7-9 -**

<sup>7</sup>And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup>but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. **9So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**<sup>5</sup>

*Because Lucifer was created immortal and perfect, but fell from grace when he got into pride, God decided that his replacements, (i.e., humans) would be created mortal and could be destroyed if they rebelled. Therefore, only if they prove to Him that they will not make the same mistake as Lucifer, God will change all His replacement humans into immortal beings before they enter the kingdom of God. Lucifer fell because he was wealthy. God wants us to show our love for other humans, even our enemies, by giving of our material wealth. If we can do this, then we will prove to Him that wealth will not cause us to stumble. This is how we prove our ability to walk in love. If we love money more than we love God, then we are not fit for the kingdom of heaven. This is why God created money and wealth to test us and see if we would be different from Lucifer and love God more than our stuff. The best way to test this is to ask us to give it away. Giving of what we have 'cleanses' us inwardly of selfishness. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was rooted in pride and selfishness, (see Ezekiel 16:49-50, 28:11-19, Matthew 6:19-34 and 19:16-22, Luke 3:7-9, 11:37-44 and 16:10-12, John 13:34-35, Acts 26:20, I Corinthians 15:50-55, II Corinthians 8:6-9, James 1:27 and 2:14-26, I John 3:16-24, Revelation 20:4-6 and 11-15).*

**Ezekiel 16:49-50 -**

<sup>49</sup>“**Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.** <sup>50</sup>“And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit. 6

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<sup>4</sup>The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>5</sup>The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>6</sup>The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

**Ezekiel 28:11-19** - (*speaking of Lucifer*) -

<sup>11</sup>Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>12</sup>“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD:

**“You were the seal of perfection,  
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.**

<sup>13</sup> **You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
Every precious stone was your covering:  
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,  
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,  
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.  
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes  
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.**

<sup>14</sup> **“You were the anointed cherub who covers;  
I established you;  
You were on the holy mountain of God;  
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.**

<sup>15</sup> **You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,  
Till iniquity was found in you.**

<sup>16</sup> **“By the abundance of your trading  
You became filled with violence within,  
And you sinned;  
Therefore I cast you as a profane thing  
Out of the mountain of God;  
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,  
From the midst of the fiery stones.**

<sup>17</sup> **“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;  
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;  
I cast you to the ground,  
I laid you before kings,  
That they might gaze at you.**

<sup>18</sup> **“You defiled your sanctuaries  
By the multitude of your iniquities,  
By the iniquity of your trading;  
Therefore I brought fire from your midst;  
It devoured you,  
And I turned you to ashes upon the earth  
In the sight of all who saw you.**

<sup>19</sup> **All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;  
You have become a horror,  
And shall be no more forever.” ’ ’<sup>7</sup>**

**Matthew 6:19-34 -***Teaching about Money and Possessions*

<sup>19</sup> “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

<sup>22</sup> “Your eye is a lamp for your body. A pure eye lets sunshine into your soul. <sup>23</sup> But an evil eye shuts out the light and plunges you into darkness. If the light you think you have is really darkness, how deep that darkness will be!

<sup>25</sup> “So I tell you, don’t worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn’t life consist of more than food and clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don’t need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. <sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not.

<sup>28</sup> “And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won’t he more surely care for you? You have so little faith!

<sup>31</sup> “So don’t worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. <sup>32</sup> Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, <sup>33</sup> **and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.**

<sup>34</sup> “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.<sup>8</sup>

**Matthew 19:16-22 -**

<sup>16</sup> Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” <sup>17</sup> So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

<sup>18</sup> He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ <sup>19</sup> ‘Honor your father and *your* mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” <sup>20</sup> The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, **“If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”** <sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

<sup>9</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

**Luke 3:7-9 - (John the Baptist) -**

<sup>7</sup> Here is a sample of John's preaching to the crowds that came for baptism: "You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee God's coming judgment? <sup>8</sup> **Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God. Don't just say, 'We're safe—we're the descendants of Abraham.' That proves nothing. God can change these stones here into children of Abraham.** <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever your roots. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."<sup>10</sup>

**Luke 11:37-44 -**

<sup>37</sup> And as He spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him. So He went in and sat down to eat. <sup>38</sup> When the Pharisee saw *it*, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner. <sup>39</sup> **Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. <sup>40</sup> "Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup> "But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you. <sup>42</sup> "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. <sup>43</sup> "Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. <sup>44</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over *them* are not aware of *them*."**<sup>11</sup>

**Luke 16:10-12 -**

<sup>10</sup> "Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. <sup>11</sup> **And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? <sup>12</sup> And if you are not faithful with other people's money, why should you be trusted with money of your own?**<sup>12</sup>

**John 13:34-35 - (Jesus) -**


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<sup>10</sup> *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

<sup>11</sup> *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>12</sup> *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

<sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> **Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.**<sup>13</sup>

**Acts 26:20 - (Paul) -**

<sup>20</sup> I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, **that all must turn from their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.**<sup>14</sup>

**I Corinthians 15:50-55 -**

<sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “O Death, where *is* your sting?  
O Hades, where *is* your victory?”<sup>15</sup>

**II Corinthians 8:6-9 -**

<sup>6</sup> So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to complete your share in this ministry of giving. <sup>7</sup> Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now **I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.** <sup>8</sup> I am not saying you must do it, even though the other churches are eager to do it. **This is one way to prove your love is real.**

<sup>9</sup> You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.<sup>16</sup>

**James 1:27 -**

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<sup>13</sup> *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

<sup>14</sup> *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

<sup>15</sup> *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>16</sup> *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

<sup>27</sup>Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.<sup>17</sup>

### **James 2:14-26 -**

<sup>14</sup>**What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?** <sup>15</sup>**If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,** <sup>16</sup>**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?** <sup>17</sup>**Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** <sup>18</sup>But someone 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. <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! <sup>20</sup>But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? <sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup>Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. <sup>25</sup>Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way? <sup>26</sup>**For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**<sup>18</sup>

### **I John 3:16-24 -**

<sup>16</sup>**By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.** <sup>17</sup>**But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?** <sup>18</sup>My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. <sup>19</sup>And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. <sup>20</sup>For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. <sup>22</sup>And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. <sup>23</sup>And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

<sup>24</sup>Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.<sup>19</sup>

### **Revelation 20:4-6 -**

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<sup>17</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>18</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>19</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>4</sup>And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. **6Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power**, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Revelation 20:11-15 -**

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup>The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** <sup>15</sup>**And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**<sup>21</sup>

*Rebellious humans who are cast into the lake of fire on Judgment Day will be destroyed, since they are mortal. This is called the second death. However, Satan and his demon spirits, such as the ones who will possess the beast and the false prophet are immortal beings, therefore they will be tormented for eternity in the lake of fire, (see Matthew 8:28-32, Revelation 20:10).*

#### **Matthew 8:28-32 -**

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake in the land of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They lived in a cemetery and were so dangerous that no one could go through that area. <sup>29</sup> **They began screaming at him, "Why are you bothering us, Son of God? You have no right to torture us before God's appointed time!"** <sup>30</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding in the distance, <sup>31</sup> so the demons begged, "If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs."

<sup>32</sup> **"All right, go!"** Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>21</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>22</sup>*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.



**Revelation 20:10 -**

<sup>10</sup>The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.<sup>23</sup>

*If we can prove to God that we can overcome the temptation of wealth and will NOT fall into the same trap that Lucifer did when he became full of pride because of his wealth and beauty, then God will allow us to come into His kingdom and live with Him forever in the New Jerusalem, (see Revelation 21:1-8).*

**Revelation 21:1-8 -**

<sup>1</sup>Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup>Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be their God.*" <sup>4</sup>"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." <sup>5</sup>Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." <sup>6</sup>And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts." <sup>7</sup>"**He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.**" <sup>8</sup>"**But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**"<sup>24</sup>

*God wants us to fear only Him. If we fear God and ask Him, then He will give us His wisdom and knowledge, so that we will understand His ways. These things are better than any worldly wealth, as they will last us an eternity. Also, with the wisdom of God, we can create wealth as God gives us the power to do so. However as is very often the case, if people fear other humans, the devil, lack of material things, etc. more than they fear God, then they will not have the eternal perspective to continue to obey God no matter what. If this is the case, then they prove to God that they are cowards and will lie, cheat and steal in order to have what they think they should have, rather than trusting God and being content with whatever He decides to give them. Then God will NOT share His wisdom with them and they will end up in the lake of fire, (see Revelation 21:8 above, Psalm*

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<sup>23</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

<sup>24</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

111:10, Proverbs chapter 1, 3:13-18 and 9:10, Matthew 10:28-31, Philippians 4:4-20 and James 1:5-8).

### Psalm 111:10 -

<sup>10</sup>           **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;**

          A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*.  
His praise endures forever.<sup>25</sup>

### Proverbs Chapter 1 -

#### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup>           The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup>           To know wisdom and instruction,

To perceive the words of understanding,

<sup>3</sup>           To receive the instruction of wisdom,

Justice, judgment, and equity;

<sup>4</sup>           To give prudence to the simple,

To the young man knowledge and discretion—

<sup>5</sup>           A wise *man* will hear and increase learning,

And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

<sup>6</sup>           To understand a proverb and an enigma,

The words of the wise and their riddles.

<sup>7</sup>           **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
*But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

<sup>8</sup>           My son, hear the instruction of your father,

And do not forsake the law of your mother;

<sup>9</sup>           For they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head,

And chains about your neck.

<sup>10</sup>          **My son, if sinners entice you,**

**Do not consent.**

<sup>11</sup>          **If they say, “Come with us,**

**Let us lie in wait to *shed* blood;**

**Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause;**

<sup>12</sup>          **Let us swallow them alive like Sheol,**

**And whole, like those who go down to the Pit;**

<sup>13</sup>          **We shall find all *kinds* of precious possessions,**

**We shall fill our houses with spoil;**

<sup>14</sup>          **Cast in your lot among us,**

**Let us all have one purse”—**

<sup>15</sup>          **My son, do not walk in the way with them,**

**Keep your foot from their path;**

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<sup>25</sup>The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

16       **For their feet run to evil,**  
17       **And they make haste to shed blood.**  
18       **Surely, in vain the net is spread**  
19       **In the sight of any bird;**  
20       **But they lie in wait for their *own* blood,**  
21       **They lurk secretly for their *own* lives.**  
22       **So *are* the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain;**  
23       **It takes away the life of its owners.**

24       Wisdom calls aloud outside;  
25       She raises her voice in the open squares.  
26       She cries out in the chief concourses,  
27       At the openings of the gates in the city  
28       She speaks her words:  
29       “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?  
30       For scorners delight in their scorning,  
31       And fools hate knowledge.  
32       Turn at my rebuke;  
33       Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;  
34       I will make my words known to you.  
35       Because I have called and you refused,  
36       I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,  
37       **Because you *disdained all my counsel,***  
38       **And would have none of my rebuke,**  
39       **I also will laugh at your calamity;**  
40       **I will mock when your terror comes,**  
41       **When your terror comes like a storm,**  
42       **And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,**  
43       **When distress and anguish come upon you.**  
44       “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;  
45       They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.  
46       Because they hated knowledge  
47       And did not choose the fear of the LORD,  
48       They would have none of my counsel  
49       And despised my every rebuke.  
50       Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way,  
51       And be filled to the full with their own fancies.  
52       For the turning away of the simple will slay them,  
53       And the complacency of fools will destroy them;  
54       But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,  
55       And will be secure, without fear of evils

Proverbs 3:13-18 -

13       **Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom,**  
14       **And the man *who* gains understanding;**

<sup>14</sup> **For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver,  
 And her gain than fine gold.**  
<sup>15</sup> **She *is* more precious than rubies,**  
 And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.  
<sup>16</sup> Length of days *is* in her right hand,  
 In her left hand riches and honor.  
<sup>17</sup> Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness,  
 And all her paths *are* peace.  
<sup>18</sup> She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her,  
 And happy *are all* who retain her.<sup>26</sup>

### Proverbs 9:10 -

<sup>10</sup> **“The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom,  
 And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.”<sup>27</sup>**

### Matthew 10:28-31 -

<sup>28</sup>“**And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear  
 Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.** <sup>29</sup>“Are not two sparrows sold  
 for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.  
<sup>30</sup>“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>“**Do not fear therefore; you are  
 of more value than many sparrows.**<sup>28</sup>

### Philippians 4:4-20 -

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known  
 to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. <sup>6</sup>**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer  
 and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and  
 the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and  
 minds through Christ Jesus.**

<sup>8</sup>Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever  
 things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever  
 things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything  
 praiseworthy—meditate on these things. <sup>9</sup>The things which you learned and  
 received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>10</sup>But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has  
 flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup>Not that  
 I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

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<sup>26</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson,  
 Inc.) 1982.

<sup>27</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson,  
 Inc.) 1982.

<sup>28</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson,  
 Inc.) 1982.

**<sup>12</sup>I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. <sup>15</sup>Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. <sup>16</sup>For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup>Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup>And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup>Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.**<sup>29</sup>

### **James 1:5-8 -**

**<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>*he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**<sup>30</sup>

*The wisdom, understanding and knowledge that come from God allow us to operate in the same way that God does. This is how God created the heavens and the earth and made them work. If we gain these three things, then we become like Him, but we can only do this by abiding in Jesus, (see Proverbs 3:19-20, chapter 8 and 24:3-4 and John15:5).*

### **Proverbs 3:19-20 -**

<sup>19</sup> The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;  
By understanding He established the heavens;  
<sup>20</sup> By His knowledge the depths were broken up,  
And clouds drop down the dew.<sup>31</sup>

### **Proverbs Chapter 8 -**

*Wisdom Calls for a Hearing*

**8 Listen as wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice!** <sup>2</sup> She stands on the hilltop and at the crossroads. <sup>3</sup> At the entrance to the city, at the city gates, she cries

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<sup>29</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>30</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>31</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

aloud, <sup>4</sup>“I call to you, to all of you! I am raising my voice to all people. <sup>5</sup>How naive you are! Let me give you common sense. O foolish ones, let me give you understanding. <sup>6</sup>**Listen to me! For I have excellent things to tell you. Everything I say is right, <sup>7</sup>for I speak the truth and hate every kind of deception. <sup>8</sup>My advice is wholesome and good. There is nothing crooked or twisted in it. <sup>9</sup>My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those who want to learn.**

<sup>10</sup>“**Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge over pure gold. <sup>11</sup>For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can be compared with it.**

<sup>12</sup>“I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment. <sup>13</sup>All who fear the LORD will hate evil. That is why I hate pride, arrogance, corruption, and perverted speech. <sup>14</sup>Good advice and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine. <sup>15</sup>Because of me, kings reign, and rulers make just laws. <sup>16</sup>Rulers lead with my help, and nobles make righteous judgments.

<sup>17</sup>“**I love all who love me. Those who search for me will surely find me. <sup>18</sup>Unending riches, honor, wealth, and justice are mine to distribute. <sup>19</sup>My gifts are better than the purest gold, my wages better than sterling silver! <sup>20</sup>I walk in righteousness, in paths of justice. <sup>21</sup>Those who love me inherit wealth, for I fill their treasuries.**

<sup>22</sup>“The LORD formed me from the beginning, before he created anything else. <sup>23</sup>I was appointed in ages past, at the very first, before the earth began. <sup>24</sup>I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters. <sup>25</sup>Before the mountains and the hills were formed, I was born—<sup>26</sup>before he had made the earth and fields and the first handfuls of soil.

<sup>27</sup>“I was there when he established the heavens, when he drew the horizon on the oceans. <sup>28</sup>I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established the deep fountains of the earth. <sup>29</sup>I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth’s foundations, <sup>30</sup>I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence. <sup>31</sup>And how happy I was with what he created—his wide world and all the human family!

<sup>32</sup>“And so, my children, listen to me, for happy are all who follow my ways. <sup>33</sup>Listen to my counsel and be wise. Don’t ignore it.

<sup>34</sup>“Happy are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home! <sup>35</sup>For whoever finds me finds life and wins approval from the LORD. <sup>36</sup>But those who miss me have injured themselves. All who hate me love death.”<sup>32</sup>

### Proverbs 24:3-4 -

<sup>3</sup> Through wisdom a house is built,  
And by understanding it is established;  
<sup>4</sup> By knowledge the rooms are filled

With all precious and pleasant riches.<sup>33</sup>

**John 15:5 -**

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**.”<sup>34</sup>

*If we fear God, trust in Him to provide for us and do not desire more than what He is willing to do for us, then He will be willing to give us more. If we seek the wisdom of God rather than material things, then we will have the material things as well. However, if we seek the material things first, rather than obeying God, then even what little we may have will be taken from us. God considers it spiritual adultery when we desire the things of this world more than we desire Him, (see Matthew 6:31-33 and 25:29 and James 4:1-10).*

**Matthew 6:31-33 -**

<sup>31</sup>“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>“**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**”<sup>35</sup>

**Matthew 25:29 -**

<sup>29</sup> **To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.**<sup>36</sup>

**James 4:1-10 -**

*Drawing Close to God*

**4** What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it the whole army of evil desires at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. <sup>3</sup> And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

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<sup>33</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>34</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>35</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

<sup>36</sup>*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

**<sup>4</sup>You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy this world, you can't be a friend of God.** <sup>5</sup> What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed within us, jealously longs for us to be faithful? <sup>6</sup> He gives us more and more strength to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say,

“God sets himself against the proud,  
but he shows favor to the humble.”

<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites. <sup>9</sup> Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. <sup>10</sup> When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on him, he will lift you up and give you honor.<sup>37</sup>

*In order for God to be able to trust us to choose Him over the material wealth in this world, He tests us to see what is in our hearts, whether or not we will obey Him. Much of this testing is done in the 'spiritual wilderness' in which He takes away everything of comfort in our lives and causes us to rely totally on Him. This occurs after we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, get baptized in water and are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Then God allows the devil to tempt us and see if we will give in to temptation, or submit to God and resist the devil. This principle was first demonstrated by God with the Israelites under Moses' charge as a lesson for us. Then Jesus established a similar, more powerful pattern for us, (see Deuteronomy chapter 8, Mark 1:9-13 and I Corinthians 10:1-13).*

## Deuteronomy Chapter 8 -

### Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup>“Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. <sup>2</sup>“And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. <sup>3</sup>“So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup>“Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup>“You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, *so* the LORD your God chastens you. <sup>6</sup>“Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. <sup>7</sup>“For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; <sup>8</sup>“a land of wheat and barley, of vines and

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<sup>37</sup>*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.



fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; <sup>9</sup>“a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones *are* iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup>“When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

<sup>11</sup>“**Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,** <sup>12</sup>“**lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;** <sup>13</sup>“**and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;** <sup>14</sup>“**when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;** <sup>15</sup>“**who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;** <sup>16</sup>“**who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—** <sup>17</sup>“**then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’** <sup>18</sup>“**And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.** <sup>19</sup>“**Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.** <sup>20</sup>“**As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.**<sup>38</sup>

### I Corinthians 10:1-15 -

<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>**But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.** <sup>6</sup>**Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.** <sup>7</sup>And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; <sup>9</sup>nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; <sup>10</sup>nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>**Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.** <sup>12</sup>Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be

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<sup>38</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.<sup>39</sup>

*Once we come out of the spiritual wilderness, we will come out in the power of the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus did. The Israelites did not kill any giants until AFTER they came out of the wilderness. Jesus did not perform any miracles until AFTER His wilderness experience. It is only AFTER we have been tested in the 'wilderness' that we will truly be able to work for God and defeat the devil. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit, through our faith in Jesus, that we can overcome the sinful nature that God put into humans after the fall of Adam. However, God will continue to test us throughout our lives in order to 'keep us on our toes'. This testing will come at the hands of the antichrist spirit and will be in the form of persecution, (see the handout "SUFFERING - The Key to Obedience", Luke 4:1-15, Romans 8:12-17 and I Peter 2:4-19).*

### **Luke 4:1-15 -**

**<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup>But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "** <sup>5</sup>Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. <sup>7</sup>"Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'** " <sup>9</sup>Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup>"For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,  
To keep you,'

<sup>11</sup>"and,

'In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, "**It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'** "

<sup>13</sup>Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

<sup>14</sup>**Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. <sup>15</sup>And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.**<sup>40</sup>

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**Romans 8:12-17 -**

<sup>12</sup> So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. <sup>13</sup> For if you keep on following it, you will perish. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

<sup>15</sup> So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into his family—calling him “Father, dear Father.” <sup>16</sup> For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> **And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.**<sup>41</sup>

**I Peter 2:4-19 -**

<sup>12</sup> **Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; <sup>13</sup>but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. <sup>14</sup>If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.** <sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. <sup>16</sup>Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. <sup>17</sup>For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

<sup>18</sup> Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

<sup>19</sup>**Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.**<sup>42</sup>

*God is faithful to deliver His true, obedient children from evil. However, when God rewards us with material treasures, He will do so in a fashion that will elicit the most fervent and persistence positive response from us. Since God created us, then He knows what drive us. He wants His true children to be CONSISTENTLY OBEDIENT to Him. This is where the paradox comes in. In order for us to become consistently and fervently obedient to God, He must be INCONSISTENT in His rewards to us. Suffering at the hands of the antichrist spirit working through people who attack us for no good reason is the key to getting us to rely on God and obey Him when He delivers us from those persecutions. Then, if we are obedient even in the face of opposition from the devil, we will hope for some form of reward from God. If God rewards us consistently, then we will*

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<sup>41</sup>*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

<sup>42</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

get 'spoiled' and come to expect the same level of reward or response from Him every time we do something He wants us to do. Then we may take God for granted. Or worse, just like Lucifer, we may want even more than God is willing to give us! This may allow us to then get into the same frame of mind that Lucifer had and lose our referential fear of God. God cannot allow that to happen with us or we will be doomed to face the same fate as the devil. Therefore, God uses a principle that He created and has been identified by modern day psychologists. That is the principle of INTERMITTENT POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT. This means that when we obey God, He may or may not reward us. If He does reward us, He may alter the type or amount of the reward. In this way, we develop a deep motivation within our soul to strive for the next reward, since we do not know when it will come or how much it will be. This principle was identified by B.F. Skinner who was a psychologist in the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. What he and others who followed found in their experiments was that **intermittent positive reinforcement is the most powerful way to develop desired behavior in both animals and humans**. The problem is that not all behavior that results from this principle is helpful to us. For instance, slot machines in casinos are so lucrative because people are intermittently rewarded for their behavior of feeding money into the machines. People go to sporting events because the outcome, though it may seem a forgone conclusion in many cases, will sometimes turn out in a way other than expected. These behaviors are based on this principle which God put into us in order that we should learn to have faith in and rely on Him, but the devil also knows this principle and uses it against us.

Thus, we need to understand how this principle works in our lives so that we will appreciate the rewards that God gives us when and how HE decides to give them, and learn to be content with whatever He gives us. This is His deepest desire from the operation of this principle in our lives. On the other hand, Satan wants us to get discouraged when we are obedient to God and He decides NOT to reward us in a way that we think we should be rewarded, or in the way we expect. If we will only understand the principle of intermittent positive reinforcement and allow God to give us what He will, when He will and be satisfied with that, then we can begin to rest in the Lord and trust in Him, (see Psalm chapter 34).

## Psalm Chapter 34 -

### Psalm 34

A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times;  
His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall make its boast in the LORD;  
The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad.
- 3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me,  
And let us exalt His name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and He heard me,  
And delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 They looked to Him and were radiant,

And their faces were not ashamed.  
 6       **This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard *him*,**  
**And saved him out of all his troubles.**  
 7       **The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,**  
**And delivers them.**  
 8       **Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good;**  
**Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!**  
 9       **Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!**  
***There is* no want to those who fear Him.**  
 10       **The young lions lack and suffer hunger;**  
**But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*.**  
 11       **Come, you children, listen to me;**  
**I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**  
 12       Who *is* the man *who* desires life,  
 And loves *many* days, that he may see good?  
 13       Keep your tongue from evil,  
 And your lips from speaking deceit.  
 14       Depart from evil and do good;  
 Seek peace and pursue it.  
 15       **The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous,**  
**And His ears *are* open to their cry.**  
 16       The face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil,  
 To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.  
 17       ***The righteous* cry out, and the LORD hears,**  
 And delivers them out of all their troubles.  
 18       The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart,  
 And saves such as have a contrite spirit.  
 19       **Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous,**  
**But the LORD delivers him out of them all.**  
 20       He guards all his bones;  
 Not one of them is broken.  
 21       Evil shall slay the wicked,  
 And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.  
 22       The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,  
 And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.<sup>43</sup>

*God may not be consistent in His rewards to us, but that is for our own good. If we can begin to appreciate this and know that He is faithful and reliable to deliver us from everything the devil sends our way when we are obedient to Him, then the rewards will not be the thing that truly motivates us, but rather our love for and trust in Him. Since it is for our own eternal good, let us begin to appreciate the God of inconsistency. Amen!*

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<sup>43</sup>*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

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