

IN THE BEGINNING  
**GOD!**  
Notes by Elder Gary Hawley



# GOD INITIATES ALL SPIRITUAL GROWTH

RECOGNIZING  
THE NEED  
FOR GOD

UNDERSTANDING  
THE NEED FOR  
FAITH IN JESUS

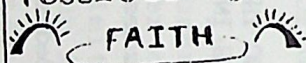
UNDERSTANDING  
COMPASSION  
OF CHRIST

CO-USERS  
OF GOD'S  
CREATIVE POWERS

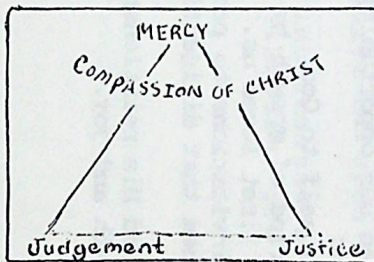
Believe  
That He  
Is...



ALL THINGS  
ARE  
POSSIBLE BY  
**FAITH**



MERCY  
COMPASSION OF CHRIST  
Judgement Justice



**TRUST**

God's Goals

Your goals

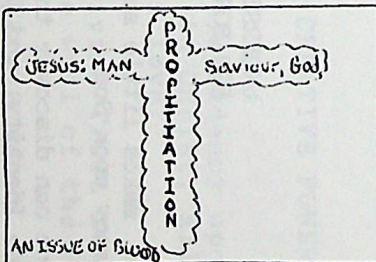
... Joy set before...

Concepts  
of  
GOD

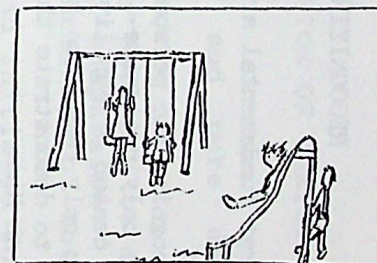
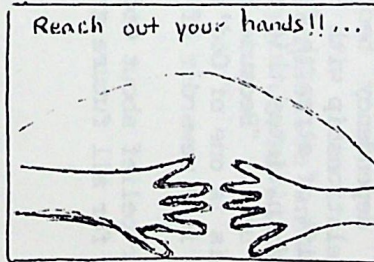


[No blackmail  
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JESUS: MAN  
SAVIOUR, GOD  
PROPITIATION  
AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

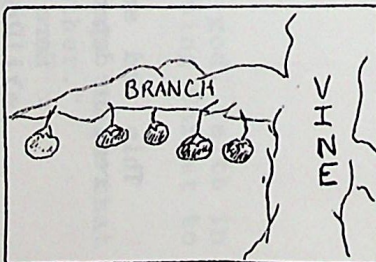


Reach out your hands!!...

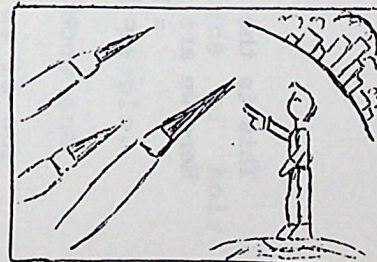
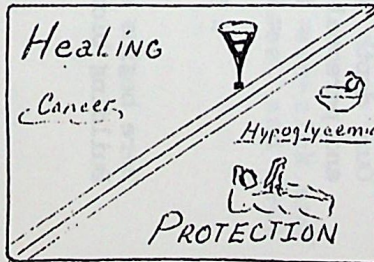


Jr. High  
Camp  
GOD  
PLANTS  
SEEDS  
Devil's  
Punch  
Bowl  
Stump

BRANCH  
VINE



Healing  
Cancer  
Hypoglycaemia  
PROTECTION





## RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR GOD

This is the first fundamental area of spiritual growth

Here we are to:

- = Recognize the personal need for God in our life;
- = Not only recognize- but accept need for God to be the center of our lives;
- = Not only recognize & accept the need for God- but we need to demonstrate this through total, willing dependency on Him.

Our depth of dependency becomes our opportunity to have an intimate and personal relationship with Him:

- = Shift of strength from self to God
- = God initiates this period of growth by exposing Himself to us... "Because He first loved us."
- = This is one of God's invitations to prove Him - "that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"

Here begins our belief about God and His relationship with us.  
Building block for all future growth and joy.

## UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR FOR FAITH IN JESUS

This 2nd area makes little sense unless one is settled and has found rest in dependency upon God.

- = Here one can discover their Redeemer; Advocate; Death; Rebirth; Divine Identity; and Grace.
- = Prayer becomes an expression of our faith in Christ.
- = Prayer becomes our willing expression of dependency on Jesus
- = We find God has initiated this area of growth by the free gift of grace.

The issue of sin, forgiveness, and righteousness become character references of our Redeemer and Saviour.

## UNDERSTANDING THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

Here we can discover the limitless and pure designs of holy compassion.

- = We find the arms of mercy are truly extended to all people.
- = Mercy becomes one of God's tools of compassion.
- = The power of mercy claims you and healings of both body and spirit are experienced.
- = Here we learn that all that God had initiated for us is our eternal example of how we are to treat others.
- = Herein rests His judgement upon us.

We are asked to become instruments of compassion unto a sin-sick and unbelieving world, that through you the world might see, and feel Jesus.

## BECOMING CO-USERS OF GOD'S CREATIVE POWERS

Thus far we have accepted a life of dependency upon god, faith in Jesus Christ, have become a new creation in Christ, allowing Christ to live in and through us by the power of His love.

This area is truly one of unlimited Divine Trust towards those that have found their will "swallowed up in the will of the Father."

As Christ touched the three Nephites, so he can touch your life.

You truly know without any doubt that His power is sufficient for all your needs in all circumstances. He knows you will not take these creative powers and use them for your own personal gain;

Satan has no power over you. The powers of earth cannot hold you.

You shall have a fullness of joy!



## RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR GOD

- Heb. 11:6 ... For he that cometh unto God must believe that He is, & that he is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- D&C: 1a&b ...the voice of him who dwells on high, & whose eyes are upon all men; ... Harken ye people from afar, & ye that are on the islands of the sea, listen together; ... the voice of the Lord is unto all men, there is no escape, and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.
- Heb. 4:13 ... all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.
- III Nephi 5:98... Pray unto the Father who is in secret; & thy Father, who seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.
- Romans 10:12 ... For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.
- Isaiah 51:1 - Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness & who seek the Lord, look unto the rock from whence ye were hewn, & the hole of the pit from whence ye are digged.
- Ephesians 3:17 ... that ye being rooted & grounded in love;
  - v.18. May be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
  - v.19. And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

*Rabbit trails - false paths*

## 1. ~~COGNIZING~~ THE NEED FOR GOD

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*Isaiah 45: 18-35*

*Gen 15:12*

v.49. ... I have all things as a testimony that these things are true; & ye also have all things as a testimony unto you that they are true, & will ye deny them?

- God speaks to Adam:

Gen. 6:66 - All things have their likeness; & all things are created & made to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, & things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, & things which are on the earth, & things which are in the earth, & things which are under the earth, both above and beneath, all things bear record of me.

Look at Korihor's philosophy (74 B.C.)

- Alma 16:16 Behold, ye can not know of things which ye do not see; therefore ye can not know that there shall be a Christ
- v.17 Ye look forward and say, that ye see a remission of your sins. But behold, it is the effect of a frenzied mind: and this derangement of your minds comes because of the tradition of your fathers, which lead you away into a belief of things which are not so
- v.18 ...every man fared in this life, according to the management of the creature; ...prospered according to his genius, ... - no crime
- v.19 Lift up your head in your wickedness ...when man was dead, that was the end there of.

Examples of Korihor's (Satan's) philosophy today:

The attempt to live on our own strength is the world's futile attempt to provide self worth & success. The world teaches that dependency is a sign of weakness.

Alma knew this...

- Alma 13:46 And since man had fallen, he could not merit anything of himself;...

## DEPENDENCY UPON GOD IS ESSENTIAL

- Ether 5:28 I give unto men weakness, that they may be humble; & my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me, & have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.

Jesus speaks:

- Mark 10:24 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
  - v.26. And Jesus, looking upon them said, With men that trust in riches, it is impossible; but not impossible with men who trust in God & leave all for my sake, for with such all these things are possible.
- John 15:4-5 Abide in me, & I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
  - v.5. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.

Deserts all God has begun, He gives agency to seek Him or reject Him.

## NO BLACKMAILING POSSIBLE

John clarifies who-loved-who first:

- 1 John 4:8 ... for God is love.
  - v.9. In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent his only Begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
  - v.10. Here in is love, not that we loved God, but he loved us...
  - v.19. We love Him, because he first loved us-



Priesthood & Dependency

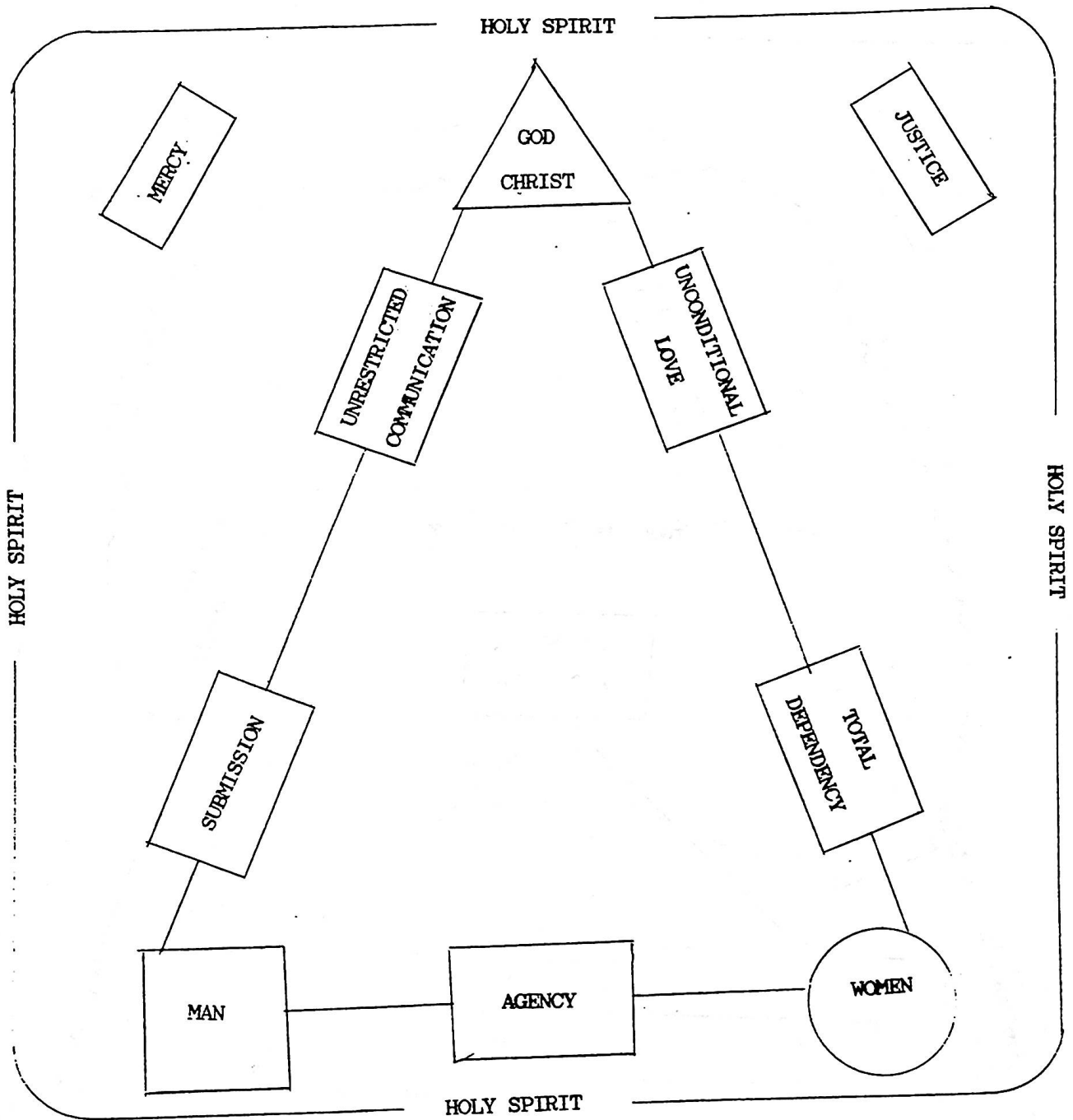
Eye Glasses & Reality

- Devil Punch Bowl
- Jr. High Camp
- Stump
- Lu Lu -

God initiates, sustains, & finds joy in our total dependence upon him. He is actively pursuing you.

IN THE GARDEN

1

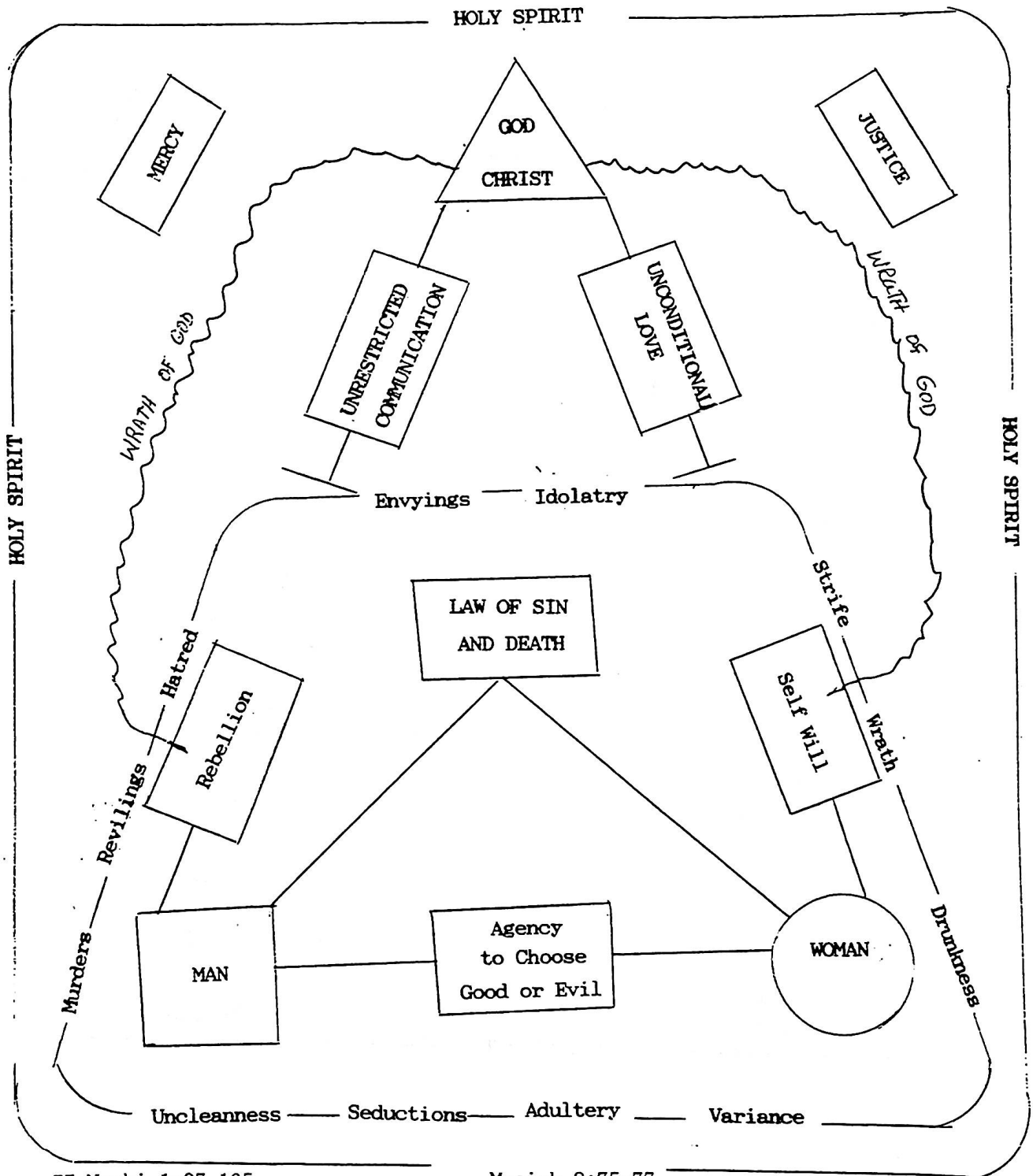


Gen. 2:10  
2:19  
2:20

Gen. 2:21  
2:22



## FALL OF MAN



II Nephi 1:97-105

&lt; Gen. 4:4

II Nephi 6:14

Rom. 6:22

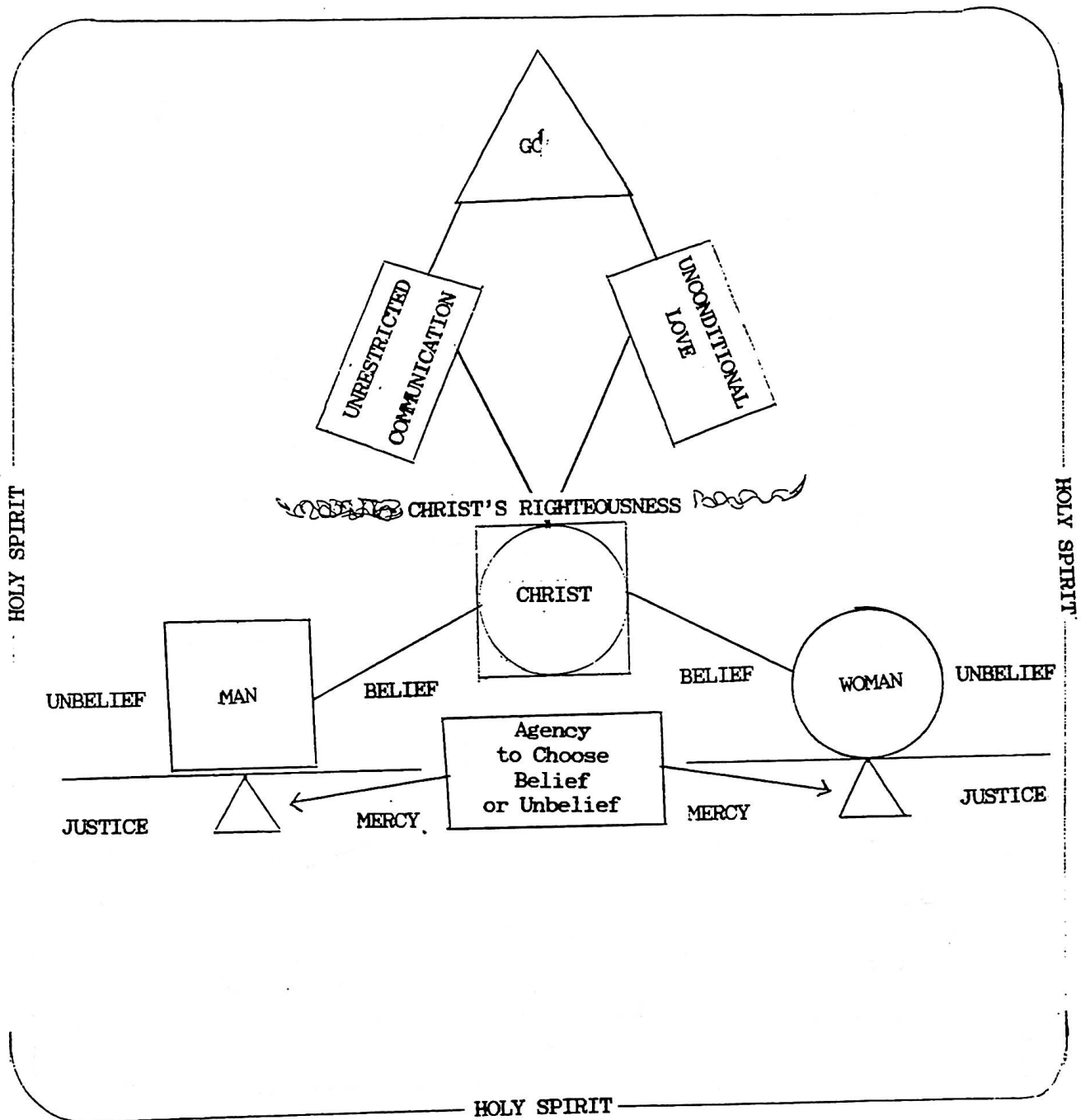
Mosiah 8:75-77

Galations 5:19-21

Ezekiel 36:26-38

Alma 19:88-96

## AFTER CHRIST'S RESURRECTION



I Timothy 2:15  
 Mosiah 8:37  
 Romans 5:19  
 Romans 8:5,8,13,17,22  
 Romans 8:10,15,17  
 John 17:20,21

I Cor. 12:13  
 II Cor. 5:17  
 I Peter 3:22  
 " 4:1,2  
 II Peter 1:3,4  
 " 1:5-8

II Peter 1:9  
 Ephesians 1:7,10,11  
 John 3:18  
 Section 83:8



## EMBRACE THE CROSS

I am crucified with Christ,  
therefore I no longer live,  
Jesus Christ now lives in me.  
(Repeat 3 times)

Embrace the cross  
where Jesus suffered,  
though it will cost  
all you claim as yours.

Your sacrifice will seem small  
beside the treasure;  
eternity can't measure  
what Jesus holds in store.

Embrace the love  
the cross requires  
cling to the One  
whose heart knew every pain.

Receive from Jesus  
fountains of compassion.  
Only He can fashion  
Your heart to move as His.

O wondrous cross  
our desires rest in you

O Lord Jesus, make us bolder  
to face with courage

the shame and disgrace  
you bore upon your shoulders.

Embrace the life  
that comes from dying  
come trace the steps  
the savior walked for you.

An empty tomb  
concludes Golgatha's sorrow  
Endure, then, till tomorrow  
your cross of suffering

Embrace the cross,  
embrace the cross,

the cross of Jesus.

## COME AND SEE

To all who are tortured and ravaged by sin:  
the frail and the wounded about to give in,  
there's news of release and captivity's end.  
We've been set free! Come and see.

O sleeper, awake! Come out of the night,  
throw open the doors and step into the light,  
for sin is undone and the wrong is made right.  
We've been set free. Come and see!

### REFRAIN:

Come and see!  
The power of sin has been broken  
The gates of your prison stand open,  
We've been set free.  
Come and see! Arise! Believe!  
For the power at work both to rescue and save  
is the power that raised  
Jesus Christ from the grave.  
We been set free. Come and see!

I too, lived in slavery, unmercifully bound.  
Battered and broken, I finally knelt down,  
and there in obedience freedom was found.  
I've been set free!

And now through the dungeons of darkness and night

I run in the freedom of liberty's light  
and shout to the captives, "O prisoner, take flight

We've been set free. Come and see!

### (Refrain)

If the enemy's holding a knife to your chest,  
demanding you give up or die,  
in Christ crucified you've already died,  
and now you are free!  
Come and see!

The power of sin has been broken.  
The gates of your prison stand open.  
Come and see. Arise! Believe!  
For the power at work both to rescue and save  
Is the power that raised Jesus Christ from the grave

We've been set free!  
Come and see!

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED  
FOR FAITH IN JESUS

Mosiah 8:74-82	All men lost; God chooses to redeem his people
Alma 16:208	God's plan required an atonement
V 210	sacrifice had to be infinite and eternal
V 216	Christ only was a pure blood sacrifice
	sacrifices intent: to satisfy demands of justice
	Christ was Propitiation (Lamb slain before foundation of the world)
-	mercy overpowereth justice and opens means of repentance for all that believe on Jesus
Hebrews 9:25	Jesus in meridian of time put away sin by the sacrifice of himself
I Peter 3:18	Christ suffered once only for sin, <u>for the purpose of bringing us to God</u>
Heb. 10:25,26	Christ had to die only once; to put away sin by sacrifice of himself
I John 3:8,9	Jesus came to destroy works of the devil
John 19:30	It is finished- Christ completed his mission
II Nephi 6:46	He suffereth the sins of all men
I John 4:10	Christ sent to be propitiation for all our sins
Mosiah 8:34-37	Led, crucified, slain, dies, as Jesus's will is submissive to God's will
-	God raises Jesus up
-	God breaks bands of death, has victory over death
-	God gives Christ power to make intercession for us
-	Jesus ascends to heaven
-	Jesus having bowels of mercy
-	Jesus being filled with compassion towards men
-	Jesus standing between men and justice
-	Jesus has this right because he:
	1) Took upon him all their sins
	2) Redeemed them from eternal death
	3) Satisfied all demands of justice



Rev. 1:17,18	Christ has keys to death and hell
II Nephi 6:25-29	Hell and death must deliver up their dead
I Cor. 15:22 and Romans 5:18,19	For as in Adam all die; so in Christ all will be made alive
I Cor. 12:13	Baptism/Total identity with Jesus Christ All baptized by one Spirit into one body and we were all given one Spirit to drink
I Cor. 15:22	In Christ all will be made alive
II Peter 1:4	A partaker of the divine nature
II Cor. 5:17	Therefore, if anyone is in Christ his is a new creature: the old is gone, the new has come--- and receiveth all the things of God - Being a new creation, <u>does not refer to behavior, but to your identity</u>
Galatians 2:20	(Paul --- new creation) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
II Cor. 5:21	God made Jesus (who had no sins) to be sin for us-- <u>so that in him we might be the righteousness of God.</u>
II Cor. 5:15	Should not live unto ourselves but unto him who died for them and rose again-- Christ
Romans 5:14	Death reigned from Adam to Moses
-	Through the offense, death reigned over all
V 15	The offense is not like the free gift- the gift aboundeth (grace of God)
V 17	We are given grace and the gift of righteousness for the purpose of the gifts to reign supreme in life by Jesus Christ
V 20	The law entered that the offense may abound- where sin abounded, grace did much more abound
Romans 7:19-27	Paul's explanation of choosing to be lead by spirit and not will of flesh into sin - he could perform good only in Christ - when under law could do no good - delights in God after the inward man - he sees another law- even of commandment- imprinted in his mind (a higher law- Gal. 6:2, law of Christ- James 1:25, law of liberty)

- to live by a higher law, not by law of sin and death, but to receive Christ is to live and accept the free gift of God
- John 6:28,29      To do work of God is this: To believe in the one He has sent (Jesus)
- I Cor. 1:30      By faith and faith alone man receives gift of righteousness in Christ
- Christ has become our righteousness, holiness, redemption
- (Refer to Ephes. 1:4-6)
- Ephes. 2:8,9      You have been saved by grace through faith not of ourselves, it is a gift of God
-

## WORKS

- Eph. 2:10 Created in Christ unto good works- ordained that we should walk in them.
- Mos. 3:21 Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in good works, so Christ will seal you His.
- John 15:5 He that abideth in me; and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, **WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.**
- John 3:22 He who obeyeth the truth; the works which he doeth they are of God
- Alma 3:68 If a man bringeth forth good works, he harkeneth unto the voice of the good shepherd; and he doth follow Him.
- D&C 22:23b no end to works, neither my words, for this is my work and and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.
- John 10:37,38 (Jesus speaking) "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not..."
- D&C 83:11a **In my name**, thou shall do many wonderful works - Signs shall follow them that believe  
(Whose works are they?)
- John 6:28,29 What must we do to do the works of God?  
Jesus speaks- this is the work of God - that you believe on Him who He hath sent.
- Matt. 7:30-33 come before Jesus for judgement according to works:  
- List of works performed:  
- You never knew me, depart from me - you that work iniquity  
- Only those that do well of the Father enter the Kingdom of Heaven
- Romans 3:27 Boasting? (Lord, Lord, look what we've done)
- Romans 3:28 Man is justified by faith alone, without the deeds of the law.
- II Nephi 7:42 And remember that after you have been reconciled unto God, that it is only in and through the grace of God, that ye are saved.



UNDERSTANDING THE COMPASSION  
OF CHRIST

Psalms 103:ALL ...Forget not all his benefits

- forgiveth all thine iniquities
- healeth all thy diseases
- redeemeth thy life from destruction
- crowneth with loving kindness of mercies
- hath not dealt with us after our sins
- our transgressions are moved from us
- He knoweth our frame -- dust

II Nephi 6:53 And where there is no condemnation, the mercies of the Holy One of Israel have claim on them, because of the atonement: For they are delivered by the power of Him.

II Nephi 1:73 no flesh can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah.

Jacob 3:15 ... He counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy, over all his works.

Mosiah 13:27 ... the Lord worketh with His Power in all cases among the children of men, extending the arm of mercy towards, them that put their trust in Him.

Alma 14:127 ... God is mindful of every people, in whatso ever land they may be in; ye, he remembered his people, and his bowels of mercy are over all the earth.

Alma 3:57 ... he sendeth an invitation to all man; for the arms of mercy are extended towards them, and he saith repent, and I WILL RECEIVE YOU.

Jacob 4:8 ... cleave unto God as he cleaveth unto you

Alma 3:21 Jesus took upon Him the pains and sicknesses of His people, and also death SO HE MAY LOOSE THE BANDS OF DEATH which bind his people.

V.22 Jesus took our infirmities so his bowels can be filled with mercy according to the flesh, so He may know according to the flesh, how to succor his people.

V.23 God suffereth according to the flesh, so he could take upon him the sins of His people and blot out their transgressions, according to the power of his deliverance.

## Mercy, Justice, Judgement

Universal law of life:

Alma 19:79&80 that which you do send out, shall return unto you again

Alma 15:55 For I know that He granteth unto men according to their desire, whether it be unto death or unto life

Applies to mercy, justice, and judgement

See Verse 77-78 (Works)

See D&C 85:8-10

See Alma 16:216,217 >

- intent of Christ's sacrifice > to bring about (birth the inner power of) mercy.
- because mercy is more powerful than justice and allows man divine justification to have faith unto Repentance.
- Mercy can satisfy the demands of justice
- Cry unto Him that He would have mercy in you.

Alma 19:14<sup>104</sup> Mercy claims the Repentant

Alma 9:55 Whoso ever repents without a hard heart, shall have claim on mercy unto the remission of sins, and enter into His rest.

Alma 16:135 He who repents, finds mercy.

See Alma 19:81-106-  
Great Example  
V. 113 & 114-

Romans 15:17 Receive (accept) ye one another, as Christ has also received us -- to the glory of God

Ephes. 4:32 Be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving, even as God has been to you

Ephes. 5:1,2 Walk in love, as Christ loves you  
V.14 Awake and arise from the dead (unbelieving) and Christ shall give you light

III N. 8:5-7 Jesus --- filled with compassion

- healed sick
- blessed children
- establishes total identity (baptism)
- describes the Relationship of Oneness

III N. 8:51-7 Commands the multitude to let His witness be their pattern -- feel and see or be lead into temptation

## CO-USERS OF GOD'S CREATIVE POWERS

Ephes. 1:3	We are blessed with all spiritual blessings
V 4	chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world
	- we to be holy and blameless in love
V 5	proclaimed us into adoption by Jesus Christ
V 6	we are accepted by God
V 7	we have redemption through Christ's blood by grace
V 11	we have an inheritance
Mosiah 3:8	King Benjamin (124 BC)
	because of covenant you are called Children of Christ, sons and daughters
V 9	God accepts us; you are born of Him; your heart is changed through faith on name of Jesus
V 10	you are free --- no other way to be truly free
V 12	called by the name of Christ
Genesis 6:27-34	God called to Enoch to be His servant
V 36	God's promise to become co-users of His creative powers
	- all thy words will I justify
	- power over the physical earth
	- power and acceptance to walk and abide in God
V 37,38	Enoch obeys --- eyes opened to see beyond physical sight, also spirits God had made
V 41	Physically protected by God ( see also Ch.7:15-20)
	- Weapons were power of God's true word
Ether 1:91	Brother of Jared (2000 BC)
	God's call and promises to Brother of Jared (if he would believe <u>in Him</u> ) Nothing could be withheld from him
V 85	Brother of Jared did not doubt --- no veil between him and God; saw Jesus
V 100,101	God's promise to gentiles to become sanctified in Christ as Brother of Jared
	- unfolding of all His revelations and all things
V 109	God promise to show gentiles greater things --- Knowledge hid up because of unbelief
V 115	signs shall follow them that believe
III Nephi 13:17	Three Nephites (35 AD)
	Christ discerns their desires; same as John in Bible
V 18,19	God's promise to the three disciples --- never taste of death-live to see all God's actions toward children of men-until all God's doings are fulfilled-will be changed in twinkling of a moment from mortality into immortality-then blessed in God's Kingdom