

1-B Made in God's Image

Forward

This series of booklets is a compilation of teaching from the curriculum for ***The School of the Local Church*** Bible Study originally offered at Grace Christian Center in Killeen, Texas under the direction of Pastor Terry Whitley. Students often asked for a written text format of the teachings which would allow private personal study apart from class lectures. These Booklets are an intended answer that need.

All quotes from scripture are shown in italics and are from the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted. Any bold or underlined text is my addition to serve to emphasize certain words or phrases. Any words or phrases in parentheses are also added by me to expand or clarify a word or concept. These are in no way meant to add to or modify the meaning of scripture, but to enhance or clarify the concepts presented in the text. All scripture quotes are enclosed in boxes to distinguish them from surrounding text.

The foundation of Christian faith and any and all instruction about God, on the Kingdom of God, the Family of God, matters of salvation and judgment, of prophecy and eternity can be found only in the Bible. Only in the Bible can mankind find reliable answers to life's most important questions. In this entire series of Booklets, the Bible will be the foundation of all teaching. This is a Bible Study.

Table of Contents

1. God's Eternal Plan and Purpose for Man
2. The Triune God
3. The Triune Man
4. Two Realms – The Natural and the Spiritual
5. How God Creates
6. The Word of God
7. The Role of the Holy Spirit
8. The Seedtime and Harvest Principle
9. The Parable of the Sower
10. The Parable of the Tares and Wheat
11. The New Birth
12. Growing in God's Likeness
13. Abraham's Seed: The Sandseed and the Starseed
- 14.

God's eternal purpose for mankind is that we be created in, shaped and molded into His image, that we be one in kind and nature with the triune God.

1. **GEN 1:26** Then God said, "**Let us make man IN OUR IMAGE (tselem), in our LIKENESS, and let them rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 **So GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, in the IMAGE (tselem) OF GOD he created him; male and female he created them.** 28 God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase in number;** fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

2. **GEN 2:7** And the LORD **God formed man of the DUST of the ground, and BREATHED into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living SOUL.**
3. **GEN 1:2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.** 3 And **God SAID, "Let there be light," and there was light.**
4. **GEN 1:11** And God said, **Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding SEED (zera), and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, WHOSE SEED (zera) IS IN ITSELF, upon the earth: and it was so.** 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and **the tree yielding fruit, WHOSE SEED (zera) WAS IN ITSELF, AFTER HIS KIND:** and God saw that it was good.
5. **GEN 3:14** And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And **I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between THY SEED and HER SEED; it (the seed of the woman) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

God started with the first Adam, created in God's image. After Adam fell, God promised another Adam, a 'seed', who is Christ. The way God makes us into His image is by planting that 'seed' in us that will grow up and mature into His image. That seed is the word of God, the SAME word of His power that created the universe and everything in it. God always creates with His WORD. The perfect image of the fully grown "seed" is Jesus, the Word Incarnate. That seed was promised in Genesis, then to Abraham, and now to us.

6. **GEN 4:25** And **Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son,** and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me **another SEED (zera)** instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.
7. **GEN 5:3** When **Adam** had lived 130 years, he **had a son in his own likeness, in his own IMAGE (tselem);** and he named him Seth.
8. **GEN 9:6** "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for **in the IMAGE (tselem) OF GOD has God made man.**
9. **GEN 15:1** After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: **I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.** 2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And **Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no SEED (zera):** and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, **Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall THY SEED (zera) be.** 6 **And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.**
10. **EXO 20:3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 **Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven IMAGE, or any LIKENESS of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:** 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: **for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers UPON THE CHILDREN unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;**
11. **PSA 33:8** Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. 9 For **He SPOKE, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.**

12. **PRO 20:27** The **spirit of man** is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.
13. **MAT 3:15** Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 **As soon as Jesus was baptized**, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him**. 17 And **a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."**

Both God and Satan work through people. Those that hear, believe & act on God's Word become children of God. Those that hear, believe & act on Satan's lies are children of Satan. A child, or seed, always ultimately grows up into the image of its father. So it shall be with both the children of God and of Satan. That growth process, begun here on earth, will continue throughout eternity. We, as Christians, don't see ourselves yet like our Father, but we will be. We can only imagine the glory of that end. Yet, we can only dread and abhor the ultimate end of those that refuse the 'seed' of the Gospel, who will grow up into a full and complete image of their father, the devil, continuously, throughout eternity. Think about it.

14. **MAT 13:24** Jesus told them another parable: "**The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed GOOD SEED (*sperma*) in his field**. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, **his enemy came and SOWED WEEDS among the wheat**, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, '**Sir, didn't you sow good SEED (*sperma*) in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?**' 28 "**An enemy did this, he replied**. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 30 **Let both grow together until the harvest**. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'" 36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "**Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field**." 37 He answered, "**The one who sowed the GOOD SEED (*sperma*) is the Son of Man**. 38 **The field is the world**, and **the GOOD SEED (*sperma*) stands for the sons of the kingdom**. **The WEEDS are the sons of the evil one**, 39 and **the enemy who sows them is the devil**. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. 40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 **The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil**. 42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. **He who has ears, let him hear**."
15. **LUK 8:5** "**A farmer went out to sow his SEED (*sporos*)**. As he was scattering the seed, **some fell along the path**; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 **Some fell on rock**, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 7 **Other SEED (*sporos*) fell among thorns**, which grew up with it and choked the plants. 8 **Still other SEED (*sporos*) fell on good soil**. **It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown**." When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." 9 His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, "though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand." 11 "**This is the meaning of the parable: The SEED (*sporos*) is the word of God**. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then **the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved**. 13 Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. **They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away**. 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who

hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and **they do not mature**. 15 But **the SEED (*sporos*) on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the WORD (*logos*), retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.**

16. **JOH 1:1** In the beginning was the WORD (*logos*), and the WORD (*logos*) was with God, and the WORD (*logos*) was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 12 **Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but BORN OF GOD.** 14 **THE WORD (*logos*) BECAME FLESH and made his dwelling among us.** We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
17. **JOH 4:23** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 **GOD IS SPIRIT, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."**
18. **JOH 6:63** **"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The WORDS (*rhemas*) that I speak to you are SPIRIT, and they are LIFE (*zoe*).**
19. **JOH 10:30** **I and the Father are ONE."**
20. **JOH 12:23** But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.** 25 **"He who loves his life (*psuche*) will lose it, and he who hates his life (*psuche*) in this world will keep it for eternal life (*zoe*).**
21. **JOH 17:20** "My prayer is not for them alone. **I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.** May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. **May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**
22. **ROM 1:16** **I am not ashamed of the GOSPEL, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes:** first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
23. **ROM 8:15** For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but **you received the Spirit of sonship.** And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 **The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.**
24. **ROM 8:29** For **those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the FIRSTBORN among many brothers.**
25. **1CO 1:30** But of him are ye **IN CHRIST** Jesus, **who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**
26. **1CO 2:8** None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 However, as it is written: **"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"**— 10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
27. **1CO 11:7** A man ought not to cover his head, since **he is the IMAGE and glory of God;** but the woman is the glory of man.
28. **1CO 15:45** So it is written: **"The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.** 46 **The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.** 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And **just as we have borne the LIKENESS of the earthly man, so shall we bear the LIKENESS of the man from heaven.** 50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the

perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**-- 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

29. **2CO 3:18** And **we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into HIS LIKENESS** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
30. **2CO 4:4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of **the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the IMAGE of God**. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

So, God fulfills His eternal purpose in creating a race of people in His image IN CHRIST. By being IN CHRIST, we are ONE with the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost. We are ONE with God on all levels; the process continues.

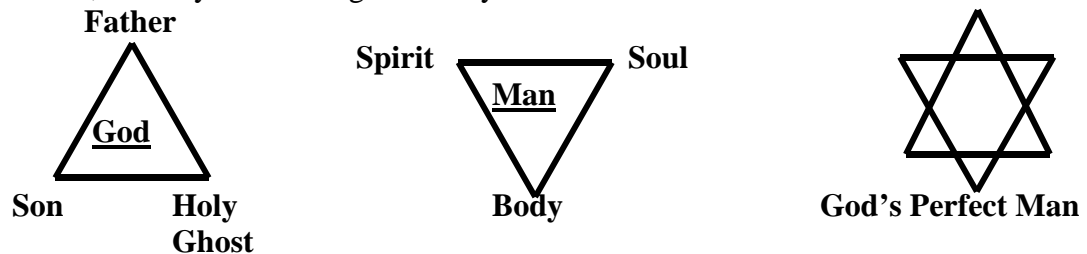
31. **2CO 5:17** Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!

However, it is important to realize that the promises of God were made to Abraham's SEED (singular), that is Christ, not to seeds (plural). How do we reconcile this? In order to receive the promises of God we MUST be IN CHRIST, One with Him, in the family of God. There is NO promise apart from Christ, to whom the promises are given.

32. **GAL 3:16** **The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his SEED. The Scripture does NOT say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your SEED," meaning one person, who is Christ.**
33. **GAL 3:29** **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's SEED**, and heirs according to the promise.
34. **EPH 4:22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your OLD SELF, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires**; 23 to be **made new in the attitude of your minds**; 24 and to **put on the NEW SELF, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**. 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and **do not give the devil a foothold**.
35. **PHI 2:12** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling**, 13 **for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose**.
36. **COL 1:18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
37. **COL 3:9** Do not lie to each other, since **you have taken off your OLD SELF with its practices** 10 **and have put on the NEW SELF, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator**. 11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12 Therefore, **as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience**.

Just as God is triune, so man is also triune. We are truly made in His image.

38. **1TH 5:23** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
39. **2PE 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
40. **HEB 1:3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and THE EXACT REPRESENTATION (charakter) of his being, SUSTAINING ALL THINGS BY HIS POWERFUL WORD. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
41. **HEB 12:1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



42. **HEB 12:23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.
43. **JAM 1:21** Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the WORD (logos) planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the WORD, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the WORD (logos) but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.
44. **JAM 3:9** With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in GOD'S LIKENESS (image). 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.
45. **1PE 1:9** for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
46. **1PE 1:23** For you have been BORN AGAIN, not of perishable SEED (spora), but of imperishable, through the living and enduring WORD (logos) of God. 24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but THE WORD (rhema) OF THE LORD stands forever." And this is THE WORD (rhema) that was preached to you.
47. **1JO 3:1** How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.
48. **1JO 3:8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has

been BORN OF GOD does not (continue in) sin, for His SEED (sperma) remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been BORN OF GOD. 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

49. **1JO 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is BORN OF GOD,** and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for **everyone BORN OF GOD overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** 5 **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**

In order for a seed to bear fruit, it must first be planted. Jesus showed us the way to do this, by giving up our lives. Only then can God resurrect us and we bear fruit for the Kingdom, and reproduce after our own kind. For us to bear fruit for God's Kingdom, we MUST die to self, and live for others.