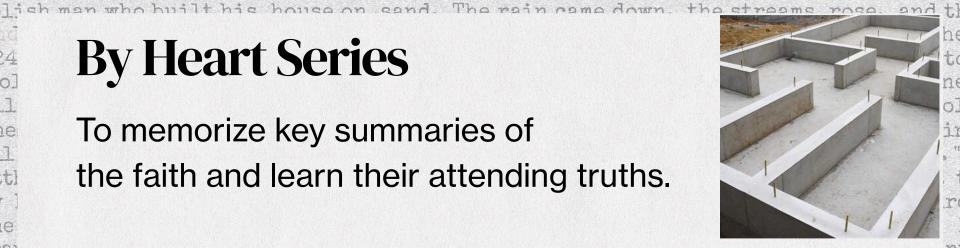
iouse The incame do the state is rose, and the sh man B blew and the love, an it fell wi grea crash." - Matthe 2 -27 "He m this parable: "No one tears a piece of ar garment to pate old one. Lerwise, they will have torn the new garmen ad the patch from the ne l not match the old. " - Luke 5:36 "Neither do peo pour new wine into of eskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine wil un out and the wineskin 1 be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins nd both are preserved." thew 9:17 Then he told them many things in parables, seeing: "A farmer went out his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the bir e and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, whele it ded not have much soil and up quickly, because the soil has shallow. But when the lun dama up, the plane scorched, and they withered because that had no root. Other seed fell among which gow up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell in good soil, when luced a comparable a karaled, sixty or thing times with lower - Matthew 13: 3: nroot the whe he ans When Scripture becomes second nature then gath wheat and bring it into my unrus I - Wattown III. 24-30 de cold them another parabl ne kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in h ld. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the large garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in i Philippians 3:10-11 | Page 1674 nches. "-Matthew 13 the kingdom of Go It is of flour h. "-Luke 13:20-21 "The king r worke ava is man found it, he hid it ag nl asure

### **By Heart Series**

To memorize key summaries of the faith and learn their attending truths.



We do this in order to train ourselves in the faith through the language and teaching of scripture itself, and to be able to carry it with us always.

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We can only learn deeply what we know enough to reflect on.

We can only teach what we have mastered.

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### **Matthew 7:24-29**



"...hears my words and puts them into practice..."

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### 1 Corinthians 15:1-6

- **1. Gospel-** good news to believe, hold firmly, and in which to take a stand.
- 2. Salvation- this good news can save you, from your sins
- 3. Christ died for our sins, was buried and was raised
- 4. This is **according to the Scriptures-** we know what it means.



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1. Justification- the state of being counted righteous in Christ, through faith, apart from works.

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- 2. Godliness (Sanctification)- Justifying faith comes "apart from works" but *motivates incredible striving* in the good things of God. (Saving faith produces works)
- **3. Union with Christ-** Justification unites us to Christ- our "relationship with God."
- **4. Gracious Striving-** Union with Christ brings passion and desire to strive for God's will, in His power.

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### **Gracious Striving**

Energetic striving in the things of God that is motivated by the peace, joy, thankfulness and excitement of being united to Christ and his work in the world.

Gracious striving neither takes grace for granted, nor seeks to appease God by our hard work. It is the energetic participation with Christ in his work, and the way we come to know Jesus the best.

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## **Gracious Striving**

#### Philippians 3:10-14

"10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

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Through believing this Gospel that Christ died for our sins, we can be

saved, which begins with receiving justification apart from works.

(See also: Roman 4:25)

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"...count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God *in* Christ Jesus." (Rom. 6:11 NIBO)

"...there is now no condemnation for those who are *in* **Christ Jesus**." (Rom. 8:1 NIBO)

"...It is because of him that you are *in* Christ Jesus..." (1 Cor. 1:30 NIBO)

"...to spy on the freedom we have *in* Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. (Gal. 2:4 NIBO)

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"Uniting with God/the Divine" is vague and confusing

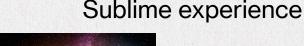
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Sense of connection to something or "everything"



#### Group solidarity







Transcendent experiences



Emotional Attachment

Drug or consciousness experiences

h man who hill this house on send. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the

Near death experiences

### What does "united with God" mean?

Preternatural experiences

(Opportunities for miscommunication)



Or: mixtures of more than one

Strange "giftedness"

Expansive experiences of learning

Care about more than myself

Deepening experiences of felt meaning

Ideological certainty



Sensitive to intuitions Embracing imaginations



### "United with God"

Knowing Christ
Knowing God personally
Relationship with God
Experience the power of the Holy Spirit
Experiencing God



We often use language that can be as misleading as it is revealing. These often lead to misunderstanding, misguided expectations, false promises, anger at God, empty sentimentality, etc. All of these have a **Biblical Meaning** and a **Free Association** meaning.

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### True spirituality IS mysterious.

#### **Colossians 1:25-2:4**

"25 I have become [the Church's] servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fulness-- 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. <sup>29</sup> To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no-one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments."

### True spirituality IS revealed.

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But it's also revealed clearly in Christ

### True spirituality IS mysterious.

### **Ephesians 3:8-9**

"Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things."

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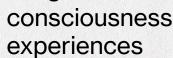
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Sense of connection to something or "everything"

**Emotional Attachment** 

Group solidarity





Sublime experience

Transcendent experiences



Near death experiences



### What does Jesus mean?

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Union with Christ may include all of these, but **Jesus uses analogies to "define the field"** 

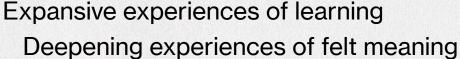
Preternatural experiences



Strange "giftedness"

Care about more than myself

Ideological certainty



Sensitive to intuitions

Asceticism

Rituals

**Embracing imaginations** 



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We'll look at 5 real quick

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#### Analogy · Type of argument · More complicated and lengthy · Points out similarities between two things Comparison Simile of two things · Directly states the · Uses words 'like' · Figure of speech comparison or 'as' Type of analogy Ex. Time is a thief. Ex. He is as hungry as a horse. Metaphor

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Warning: 100% made up word (but a good one...)

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#### Analogy **VS** Simile

An analogy makes a comparison and explains it.

tl

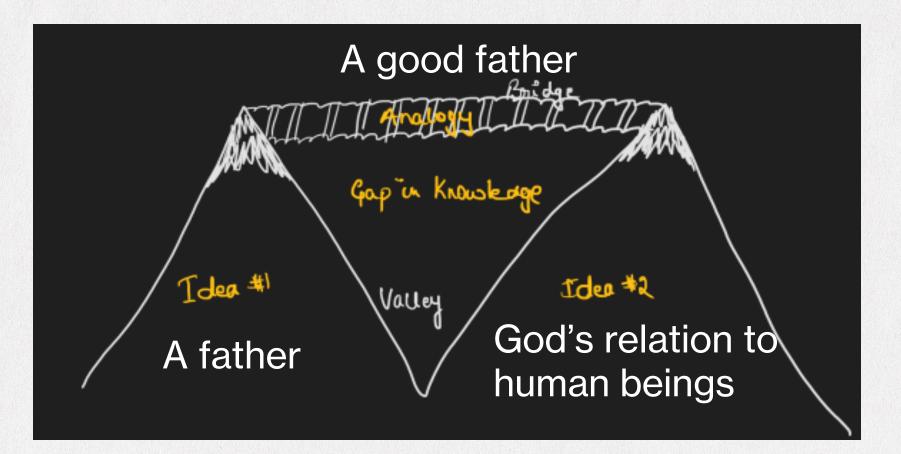
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A simile says that one thing is like another thing.





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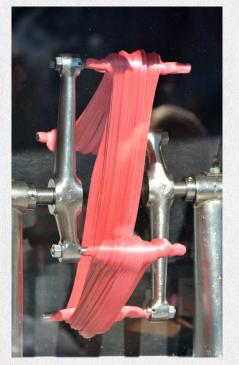
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# "Analogy of Faith"



They all break down.



Don't try to stretch them like taffy. Use them as they are presented.

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#### 1. Forensic status – Justification

Justification is the reversal of condemnation. It is to be counted in good standing with God, and counted righteous in Christ.

To be in Christ is to be like one counted righteous through another that has reckoned restitution and reversal of all one's crimes, and shared their standing with us



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lish man who hillt his house on sand. The rain rame down the streams rose and to

#### 2. Unbreakable Covenant - Marriage (Christ & the Church)



#### **Submission-Flourishing**

An unbreakable relationship of mutuality and fruitfulness in which the Lordship of the one is for the flourishing of the other, as though they are one body and one flesh.

(Ephesians 5:22-33, Esp. 25-27)

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3. True Belonging - Adoption, Sonship, Inheritance



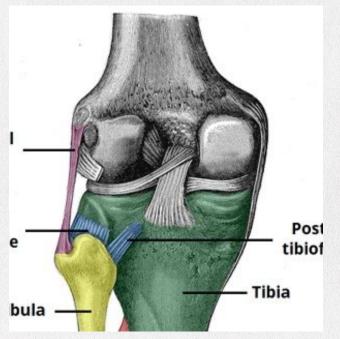
The "right" to become a son. The Father's family means getting the inheritance. It also means being part of the family business.

John 1:12, Romans 8:23, 9:4

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4. Inseverable vitality - Body (see also: Living Temple)



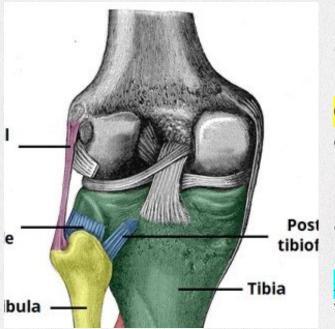
### 1 Corinthians 12 Ephesians 4, Colossians 1:18 Romans 12:4-5

"<sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

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4. Inseverable vitality - Body (see also: Living Temple)



#### **Ephesians 3:4-7**

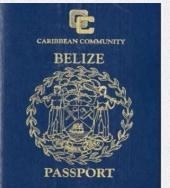
"4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. 7 I became a servant of this gospel..."

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lish man who huilt his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the

#### 5. Irreproachable Identity - Citizenship in Heaven







#### Philippians 3:18-21

"18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

e manach an a lactu. Mich a man lound au, ne mad av agalin, and onen an mad jo

Sense of connection to something or "everything"

Group solidarity

Emotional Attachment

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Sublime experience

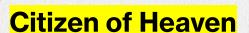
Transcendent experiences

Near death experiences

**Bride of Christ** 

**Son of God** 

Body of Christ "united with Christ"



Preternatural experiences

Strange "giftedness"

Care about more than myself

Ideological assurance

#### **Righteousness from God**

Expansive experiences of learning

Deepening experiences of felt meaning

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Religions Sensitive to intuitions
Rituals Embracing imaginations
Asceticism

3. We experience Christ when we strive in this union. abute thruten in a tretu. When a man round ro, he had it again, and then in his jo

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### Philippians 3:10-14

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, 14 I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

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### **Strain**

Exert all my energy toward a wholesome goal. To labor, contend for and pursue something- to take hold of it with all my might.

#### **Strive**

"estrif"

Fight, battle, quarrel, torment, cause distress. An anxious and worried pursuit for status, comfort, affirmation or power.

Strain, with rest, creates strength. Striving creates strife- in us and between us.

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# Justification unites us with Christ

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I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... (vs 8)

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and somehow attain the resurrection from the dead. (vs 10-11)

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The greatest mythic-literal analogy: (of participation)

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Suffering
Death
Resurrection

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# Post-Service Announcements

Remind people to fill out Connect Card

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Prayer available up front