

BY HEART

When Scripture becomes second nature

Philippians 3:10-11 | Page 1674

By Heart Series

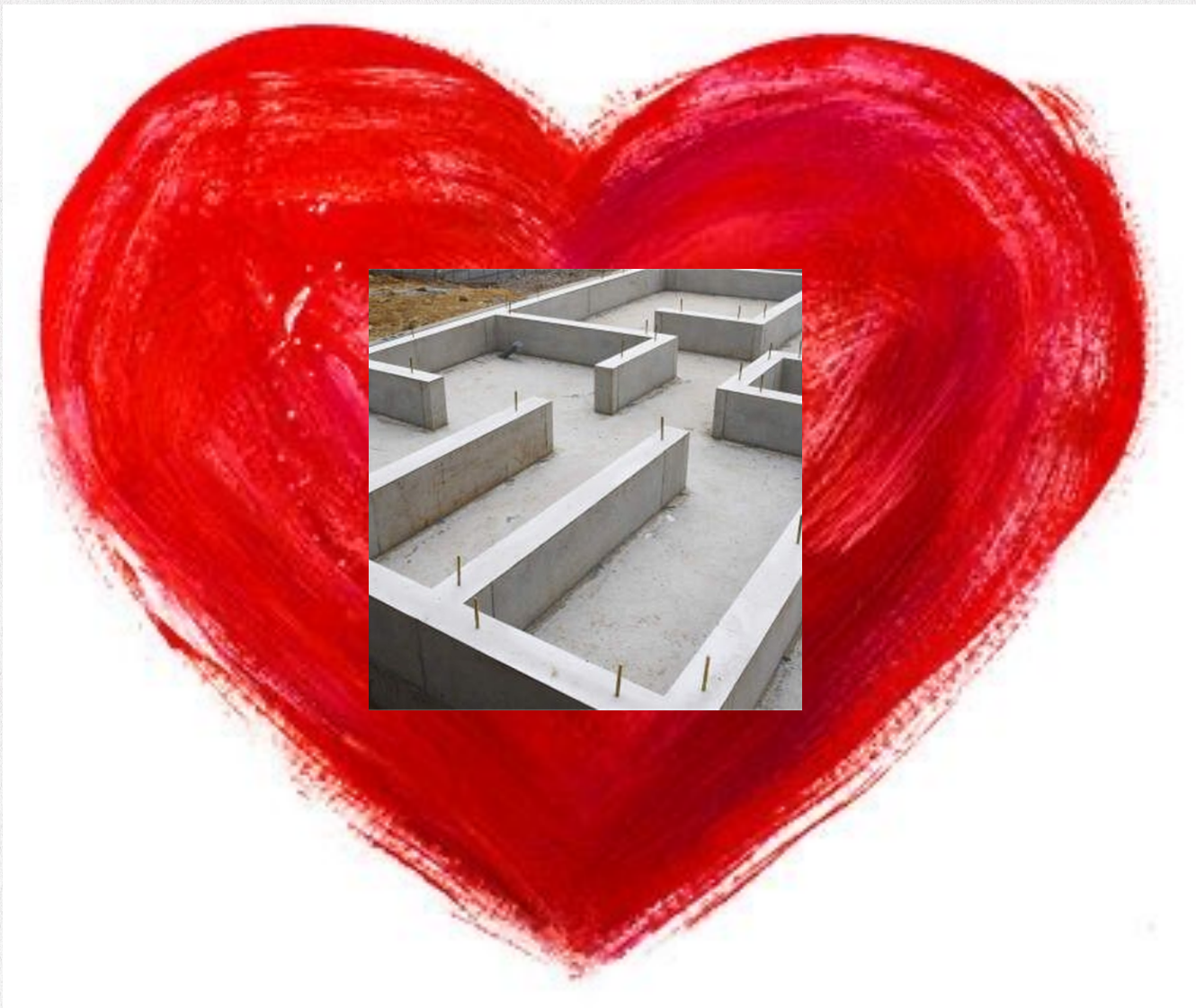
To memorize key summaries of the faith and learn their attending truths.



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.

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

We can only teach what we have mastered.



Matthew 7:24-29



“...hears my words and puts them into practice...”

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.



Philippians 3:6-16



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

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.

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, 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.”

Justification unites us with Christ

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)

“...**in Christ**” (the standard NT identity)

“...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)

1. Union with Christ is a clear mystery

“Uniting with God/the Divine”
is vague and confusing

Sense of connection to something or “everything”



Group solidarity



Sublime experience



Transcendent experiences



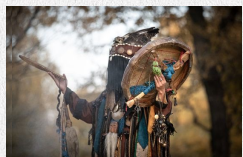
Emotional Attachment

Drug or consciousness experiences

Near death experiences

What does “united with God” mean?

Preternatural experiences (Opportunities for miscommunication)



Strange “giftedness”

Care about more than myself

Ideological certainty



Religions
Rituals
Asceticism

Expansive experiences of learning

Deepening experiences of felt meaning

Sensitive to intuitions
Embracing imaginations



Or: mixtures of more than one



“United with God”

Knowing Christ

Knowing God personally

Relationship with God

Experience the power of the Holy Spirit

Experiencing God

Christians can
be vague and
confusing too!



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.

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. ²⁹ 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.

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. ²⁹ 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."

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.”

True spirituality IS revealed.

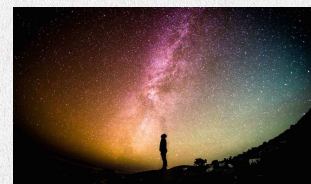
Ephesians 3:8-9

“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.”

Sense of connection
to something or
“everything”



Group solidarity



Sublime
experience

Transcendent
experiences

Emotional Attachment



consciousness
experiences



Near death experiences

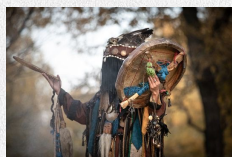
What does Jesus mean?



Union with Christ may include all of these, but

Jesus uses analogies to “define the field”

Preternatural
experiences



Expansive experiences of learning

Deepening experiences of felt meaning

Strange “giftedness”

Care about more than myself

Rituals

Sensitive to intuitions

Ideological certainty



Asceticism

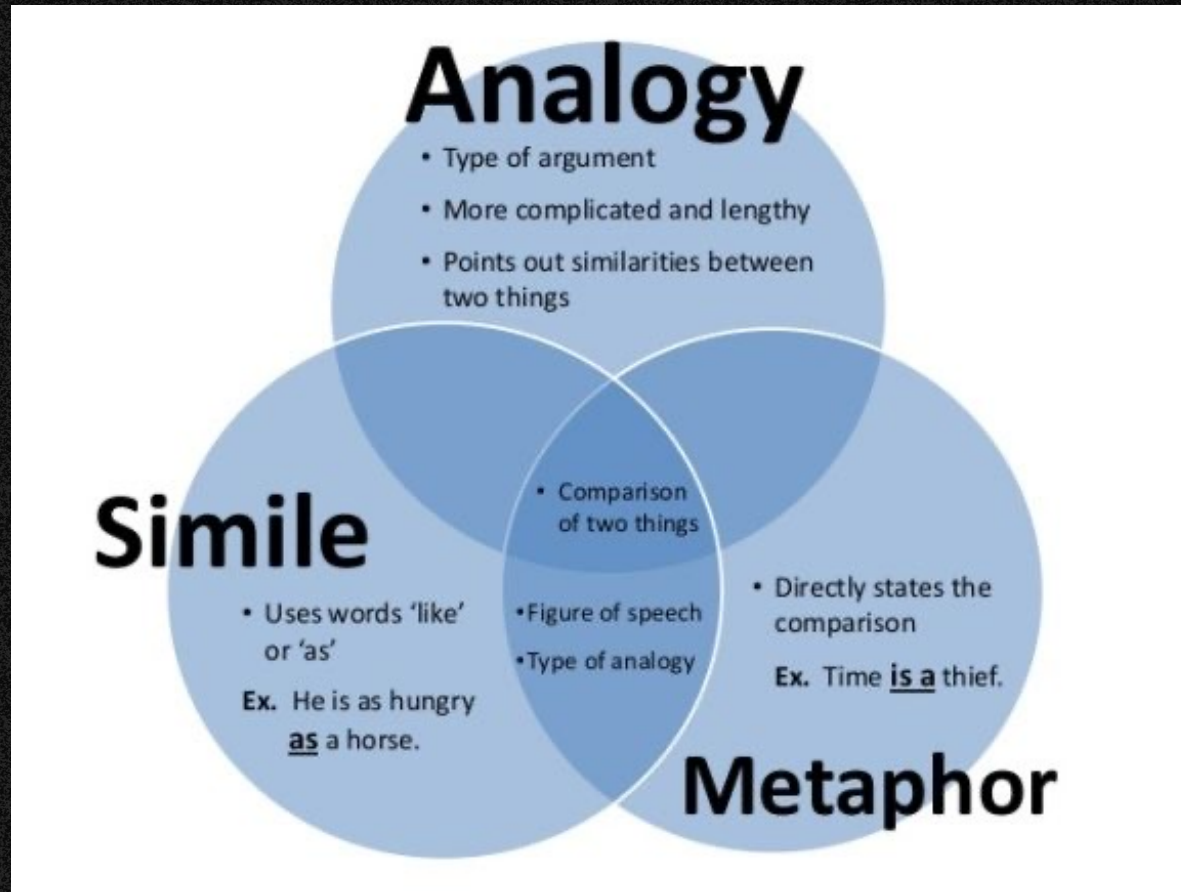
Embracing imaginations



2. God uses analogies to “define the field”.

We'll look at 5 real quick

“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’



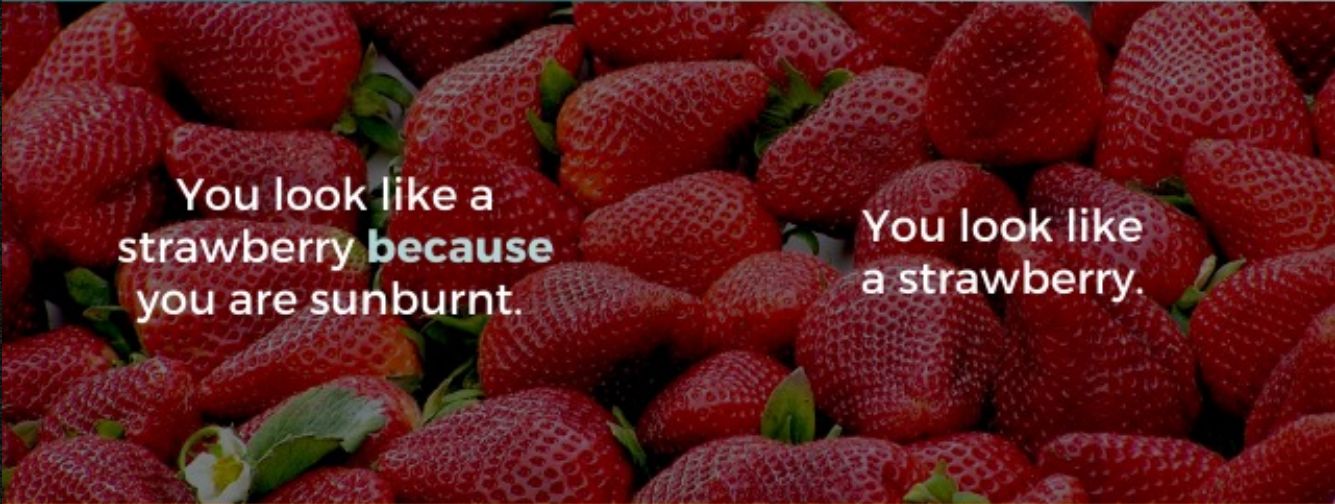
Warning:
100% made up word
(but a good one...)

“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’

Analogy vs. Simile

An analogy makes a comparison and **explains it**.

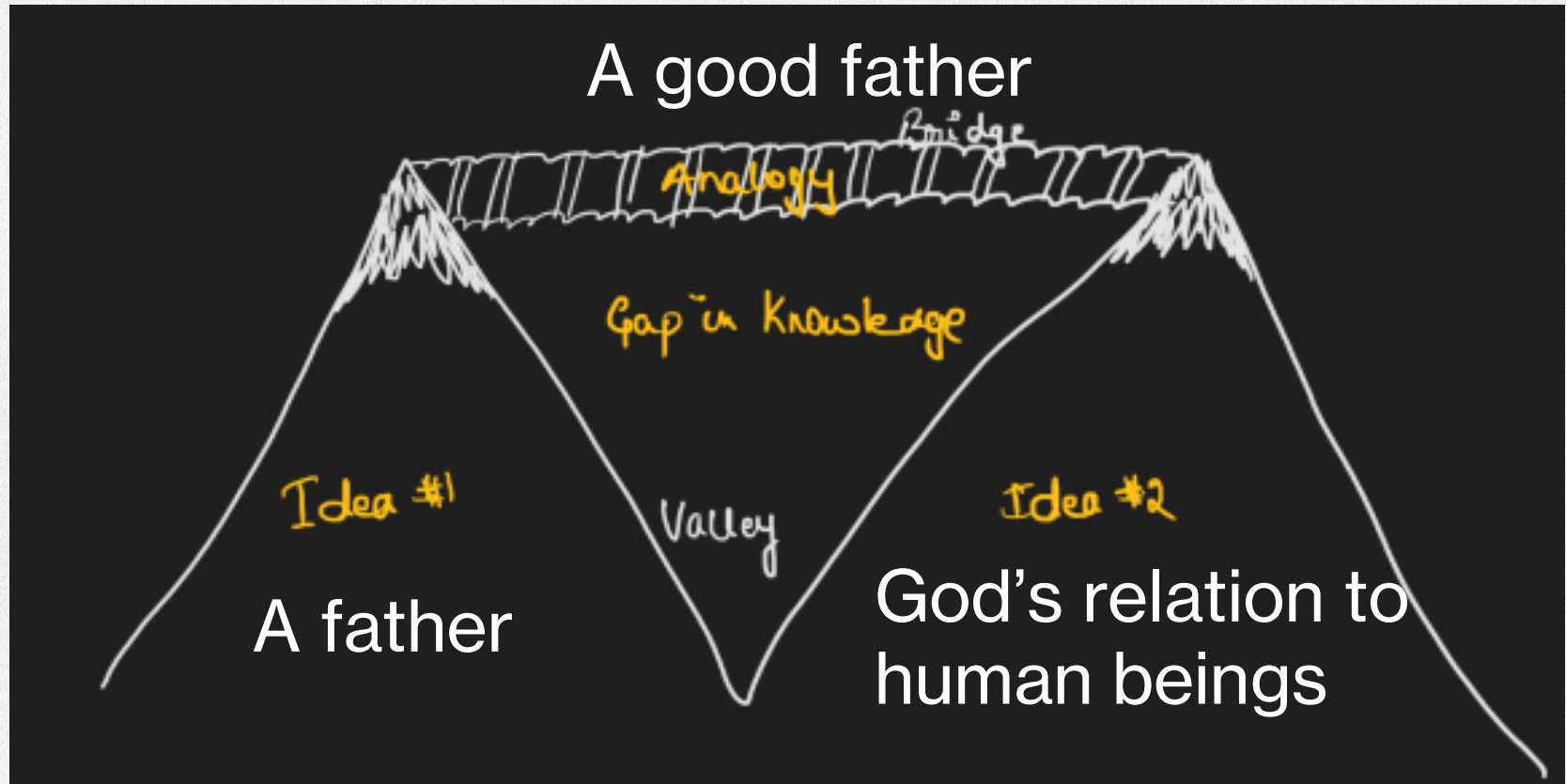
A simile says that one thing **is like** another thing.



You look like a strawberry **because** you are sunburnt.

You look like a strawberry.

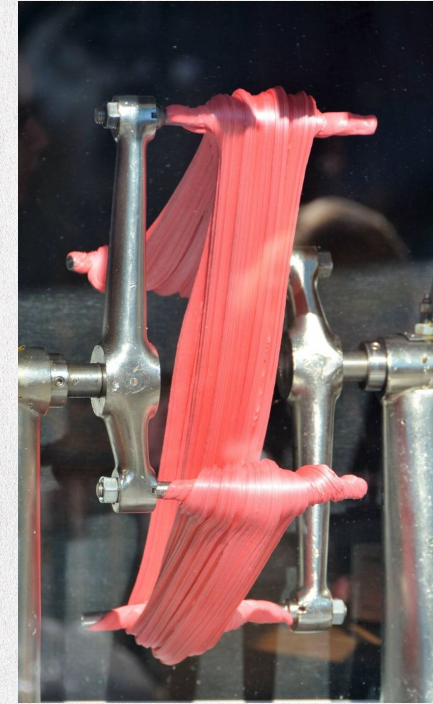
“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’



“Analogy of Faith”



They all break down.



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

“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’

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



“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’

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)

“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’

3. True Belonging – Adoption, Sonship, Inheritance

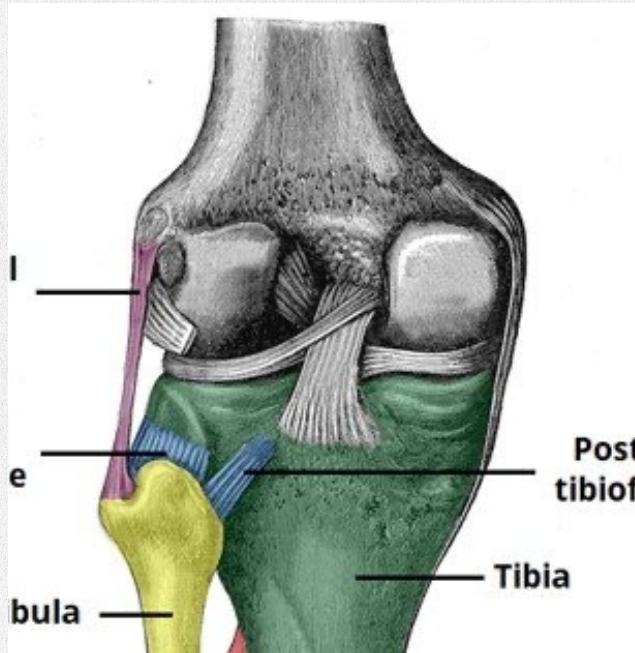


The “right” to become a **son**. The Father’s family means getting the **inheritance**. It also means being part of the **family business**.

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

“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’

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



1 Corinthians 12

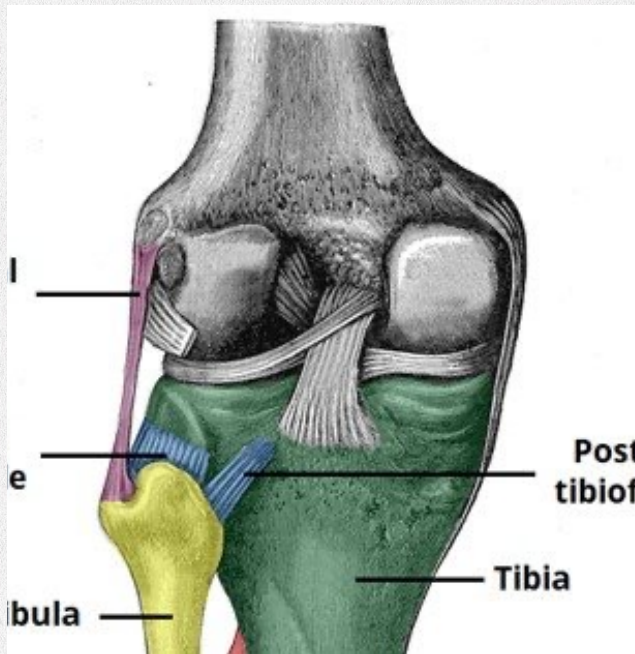
Ephesians 4, Colossians 1:18

Romans 12:4-5

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

“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’

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...”

“Analogy of Faith” – ‘mysterio-literal’

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. ²⁰ But **our citizenship is in heaven.** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ 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.”



**3. We experience Christ when we
strive in this union.**

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**."

Strain vs. Strive

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

“estriif”

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.

Justification unites us with Christ

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)

The greatest mythic-literal analogy: (of participation)

**Suffering
Death
Resurrection**

Post-Service Announcements

- Remind people to fill out Connect Card
- Prayer available up front