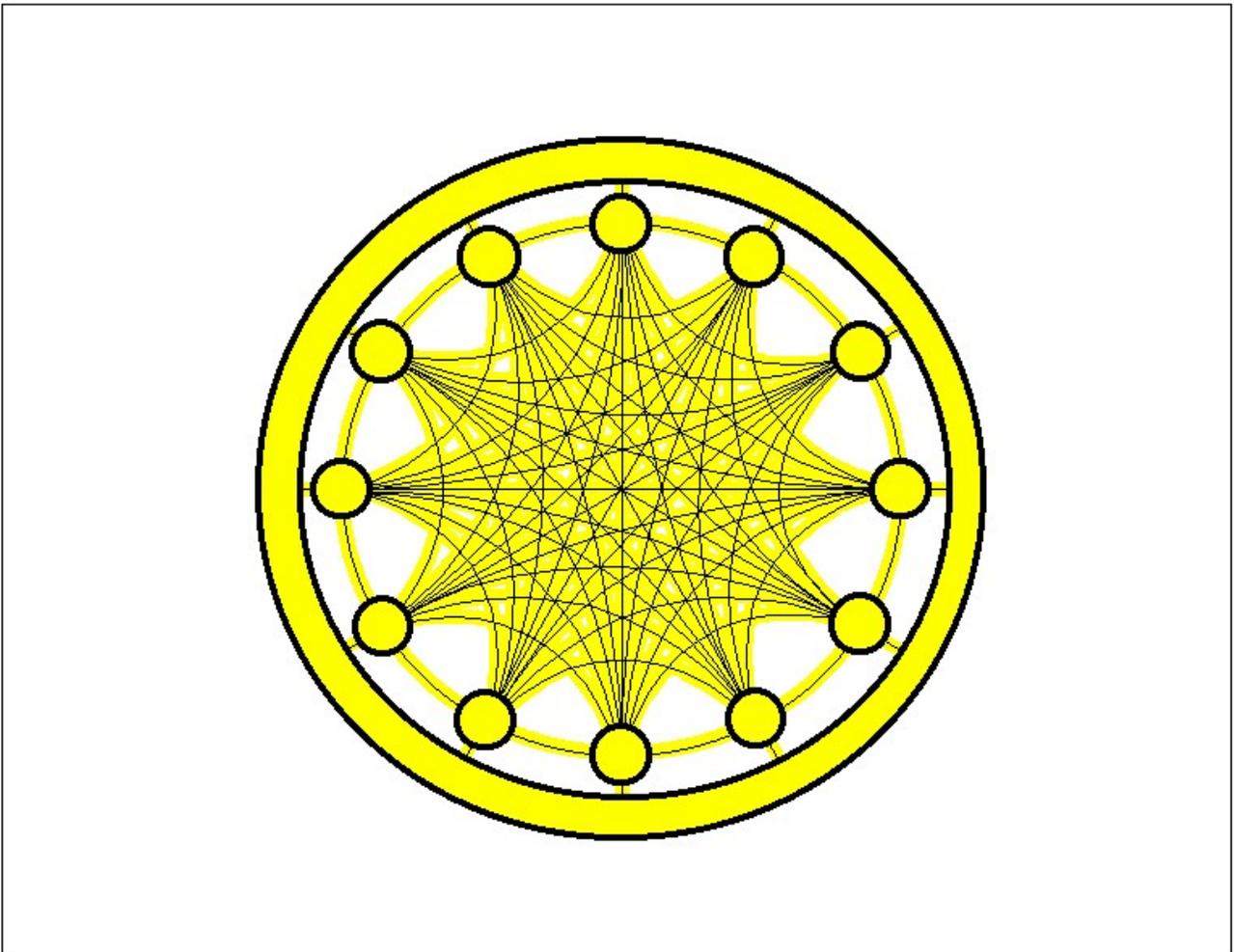


The Truth of Twelve



**A study concerning the Truth of Twelve applied as
a New Church Order**

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**World of Pentecost – PromiseLand
Austin, Texas
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Course Description:

The number twelve is the number of unity and completeness. It has always been sanctioned by divine election. It is a perfect number and can be divided by two, three, four or six.

Two: Speaks of Evangelism

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

Luke 10:1

Three: Speaks of Inter-circle Discipleship

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves

Matthew 17:1

Four: Speaks of Brotherhood and Burden Bearers

And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

Mark 2:4

Six: Speaks of Man's Involvement with the Divine Purpose

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

I Corinthians 3:9

In view of this, the purpose of this course is a search for Twelve people who will qualify themselves for God's special anointing in "unity and completeness". As the Truths of these pages begin to unfold, you will discover we have spent our lives looking for "Revelations of the Obscure", while overlooking some very simple and obvious principles.

The mountain of qualification is lofty and very demanding. Only a few will survive! Let us begin the climb, hoping for Twelve at the summit!

Course Objectives:

There is a reason and we want to discover why, God always begins with twelve.

- Twelve Tribes of Israel

And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve
Genesis 35:22

And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days..."
Genesis 49:1
- Twelve Loaves of the Table of Show bread to "feed the ministry"

And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD.
Leviticus 24:5-6
- Twelve Pillars

And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.
Exodus 24:4
- Twelve jewels in the breastplate of the priest

And the stones shall have the names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, each one with its own name; they shall be according to the twelve tribes.
Exodus 28:21
- Twelve spies sent into Canaan

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them."
Numbers 13:1-2
- Twelve stones

Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.
Joshua 4:9
- Elijah's Altar: Twelve stones, twelve barrels of water

And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."
I Kings 18:31

- Jesus was twelve years old
And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.
Luke 2:42
- Twelve baskets left over
So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.
Matthew 14:20
- Twelve hours in a day
Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world."
John 11:9
- Twelve times two: Four and twenty elders
The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne
Revelations 4:10
- Twelve gates, twelve angels, twelve foundations
Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:
Revelations 21:12

What is the reasoning? Why twelve? Why?

***See Appendix A for further reference.

Concerning Hunger

Everything you want to know about God begins with hunger!

And there is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, and have consumed us because of our iniquities.
Isaiah 64:7

1. The stirring is hunger pains: the prerequisite of a progressive future begins with a dissatisfaction of the present.

And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock."
Exodus 33:21

2. The "place by me" is an exhausting self-sacrificing journey. In order to get to where He is you must leave where you are!

God is the LORD, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.
Psalms 118:27

3: The "cords" are repentance and sacrifice. Hunger, hunger, hunger.

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
II Chronicles 7:14

4. God says, if you want more of me, I want more of you.

And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.
Matthew 9:20

5. A hungry person has no manners

As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.
Psalms 42:1

6. David was a man "after" God's heart

The Priesthood of the Believer

And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."
Exodus 19:3-6

It was God's desire for everyone in Israel to be a priest which means they all had access to God. Unbelief and rebellion caused God to narrow it to a tribe and finally to a family: The tribe of Levy and the house of Aaron.

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
Revelations 1:4-8

It is God's desire for every believer to be a priest unto God and to be one of the Twelve.

I. Qualifications of a priest

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron, saying: "No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any defect, may approach to offer the bread of his God. For any man who has a defect shall not approach: a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long, a man who has a broken foot or broken hand, or is a hunchback or a dwarf, or a man who has a defect in his eye, or eczema or scab, or is a eunuch. No man of the descendants of Aaron the priest, who has a defect, shall come near to offer the offerings made by fire to the LORD. He has a defect; he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God."
Leviticus 21:16-21

The entire chapter of Leviticus 21 gives the qualifications of a priest

1. Blemish

For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
II Corinthians 7:11

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
II Corinthians 7:1

2. **Blind** Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.
Proverbs 29:18

3. **Lame** Like the legs of the lame that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of fools
Proverbs 26:7

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:2

4. **Flatnose** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
I Corinthians 13:6

5. **Broken Footed** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
Ephesians 6:13

6. **Broken Handed** Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered.
Luke 6:6

7. **Crookback** Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."
Luke 10:38-42

8. **Dwarf** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
II Peter 1:5-8

9. **Scurvy** Of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be

teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
Hebrews 5:11-14

10. Scabbed

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.
Philippians 3:13

11. Stones Broken

A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,
Psalms 22:30

Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.
Psalms 126:5-6

Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm.
I Kings 1:1

II. Leviticus 8

This chapter is the great chapter of priestly consecration. As a member of the Twelve this is one chapter that must be mastered.

1. Leviticus 8:6

Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.
Leviticus 8:6

a. The Priest must be washed. This speaks of baptism and a love for the Word of God.

You shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, "You shall not return that way again." Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.
Deuteronomy 17:15-18

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2:38

...that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.
Ephesians 5:26

b. The Priest must seek the perpetual, daily, week in and week out anointing.

But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.
Psalms 92:10

2. Leviticus 8:13

Then Moses brought Aaron's sons and put tunics on them, girded them with sashes, and put hats on them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.
Leviticus 8:13

a. The priest must be clothed properly, according to Exodus 28:3-4

So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1. A Breastplate | Righteousness:
The Guardian of the Heart | The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?
Jeremiah 17:9 |
| 2. An Ephod | Love for the Truth of God and the Will of God | For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
II Thessalonians 2:7-12 |

3. A Robe Daily Walk A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe all around.
Exodus 28:34

A Pomegranate and a bell speak of the fruits of the Spirit and a Faithful Witness.

Fruits of the Spirit	But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness Galatians 5:22
A Faithful Witness	But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

4. A Coat An Experience with God keeps you from frigid fear For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve
Acts 27:23

5. A Mitre Salvation Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"
Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.
Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.
Zechariah 3:1-7
- And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
Ephesians 6:17

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
Hebrews 8:10

6. A Girdle Undergarments:
This speaks of your private life that only you, God and Satan know of. It is this part of the priestly garments that could totally disqualify you from being one of the twelve.

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.
II Samuel 11:1-2

For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica-- Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia
II Timothy 4:10

b. The New Testament priest must be "clothed" for warfare!

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God
Ephesians 6:10-17

3. Leviticus 8:23

And Moses killed it. Also he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.
Leviticus 8:23

a. The Blood of the Lamb gave proper direction and balance.

- Right Ear – Hear His Voice

Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."
I Samuel 3:10

- **Right Thumb – Provide His Service**

And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all
Mark 10:44

- **Right Big Toe – Balance and Direction**

That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
II Timothy 3:17

Concerning Spiritual Warfare

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

II Corinthians 10:3-6

I. Call to Warfare

The headquarters of Satan is not in hell or the lake of fire at this time, someday, but not yet. He is located in the second heaven. He has access to God to accuse you and to “get to God” you must “Pray through” his headquarters.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them

Job 1:6

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

Zechariah 3:1-7

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:10-12

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So 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.

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the

inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Revelations 12:7-12

As the example of Daniel portrays there are princes of evil over our cities, states, and nations, thus affecting our churches, families and ministries. There must be spiritual warfare. The victory comes when the saint on earth become warriors with the Host of warriors in heaven!

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come." When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, "My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength. For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me." Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

Daniel 10:13-18

II. Weapons of our warfare

The Name of Jesus

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Mark 16:15-18

The Blood of Jesus

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Revelations 12:11

The Word of Jesus

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 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. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." 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.'" 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. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.
 Luke 4:1-13

“They are mighty to the pulling down of strongholds...”

The “pulling down” is executed through prayer and fasting. The discipline of your flesh brings destruction and deliverance in the heavenlies.

But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart.
 Psalms 35:13

Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.
 Daniel 9:3

However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.
 Matthew 17:21

So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,
Acts 10:30

Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
I Corinthians 7:5

III. Prayer

There is no one as powerless as a prayerless Christian. If you are going to be one of the Twelve you must learn to pray.

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
Matthew 6:5-15

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Prayer must be private | But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.
Matthew 6:6 |
| 2. Prayer must be daily | Give us this day our daily bread.
Matthew 6:11 |

3. Prayer must be full of:

Communion	Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name Matthew 6:9
Petition	Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11
Intercession	And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. Matthew 6:12
Worship	And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. Matthew 6:13

4. Prayer must be a minimum of one hour a day

Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"
Matthew 26:40

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
Acts 3:1

5. Prayer must be early - "seek the face of God before you seek the face of man"

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!
Isaiah 14:12

"Son of the Dawn" met God early and destroy Satan for the duration of the day

I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; I hope in Your word.
Psalms 119:147

6. Prayer must be persistent and unrelenting.

And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to

him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Luke 11:5-10

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, "Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, "Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:1-8

No victory will come unless it is hammered out on the anvil of prayer.

IV. Fasting

...no flesh should glory in His presence.

I Corinthians 1:29

1. The only flesh that God can use is dead flesh.

I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

I Corinthians 15:31

The most powerful weapon in "killing the flesh" is fasting: Starving the flesh and feed the spirit. I challenge you to study the Bible concerning the subject of fasting. You will discover that all great and powerful vessels of God were frequent fasters: Moses, Elijah, David, Daniel, Jesus, Paul, the great religious reformers. So it must be today.

2. Pattern for fasting

There must be a pattern for fasting

in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you
Titus 2:7-8

Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"

And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.
Matthew 9:14-15

“Fast Off”? Then they shall fast.

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 5:20

I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.
Luke 18:12

You will discover that the more you fast and the closer you get to God, the more you want to fast. “Deep calls unto deep.” Judge for yourself. I have adopted the “pattern” of one to two days a week, at least, until three o’clock, two day fast once a quarter, and a seven day fast once a year. It is reported from many of late, of a return to the forty day fast. This must be done after much research for health reasons. Please read Ronnie Floyd’s book, “Life on Fire”. You must be a spiritual warrior if you are going to be one of the Twelve.

Concerning David's Mighty Men

I would like to deal with something in this lesson that has been "Hidden in my Soul" for many years. It is called The New Church Order! It is best portrayed in the Life of David and the gathering of "His Twelve!"

I. New Church Order

1. Transition from Saul to David

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."
1 Samuel 16:1

The "Saul Order" is over, the "New Order of David" is beginning.

So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."
Matthew 20:16

The time has come for closure of the old order and the dawning of the new: The order of the chosen. If this seems cruel, so be it.

2. Transition from John the Baptist to Jesus

It happened again with the old order of John the Baptist and the New Order of Jesus.

Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. John 1:35-37

The ceased following the order of John the Baptist and began following the New Order of Jesus.

II. New Order represents living for the Kingdom

The "New Order of David" was exactly like the "Order of Melchizedek". They had a Divine insight of the future. Melchizedek was a type cast of Jesus before Jesus was born. David was a type cast of the church before the church was born. Study how many times David is quoted in the book of Acts. It is painfully possible to be living for tomorrow, almost totally unaware of today or living in the past totally unaware of today. I refuse to be a

“Laodician”: I am going to back to Philadelphia, the age of great evangelism and brotherly love. The twelve had to be constantly reminded: It’s not about now, it’s about then; It’s not about here, it’s about there.

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."
Genesis 14:17-20

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."
Hebrews 5:5-6

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.
Hebrews 7:1-3

Let brotherly love continue.
Hebrews 13:1

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie--indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
Revelations 3:7-13

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing"--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--
Revelations 3:14-17

If deep within you, you do not feel the stirrings of another place and another time, then you will totally misunderstand the "Truth of Twelve"

Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.
Psalms 42:7

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."
Luke 1:39-45

It's about a New Church Order.

III. David gathers his "Twelve"

David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.
I Samuel 22:1-2

1. Those who came where:

a. In Debt

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves." So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors--empty vessels; do not gather just a few."
II Kings 4:1-3

- b. In Distress When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." Acts 19:21
- c. In Discontentment As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings, Deuteronomy 32:11

2. David's Mighty men were later described as:

Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren. I Chronicles 12:1-2

a. Armed

Life is not a beach; it's a mountain
Life is not a cruise ship; it's a battleship.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Ephesians 6:10-17

b. Ambidextrous

They could fight with either hand. They were switch hitters. They were unique and unpredictable. David produced a place in the "New Order" where individuality was not frowned upon.

Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth, Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbanai the eleventh. These were from the sons of Gad, captains of the army; the least was over a hundred, and the greatest was over a thousand. These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west. Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold. And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment." Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said:

"We are yours, O David;
 We are on your side, O son of Jesse!
 Peace, peace to you,
 And peace to your helpers!
 For your God helps you."

So David received them, and made them captains of the troop. And some from Manasseh defected to David when he was going with the Philistines to battle against Saul; but they did not help them, for the lords of the Philistines sent him away by agreement, saying, "He may defect to his master Saul and endanger our heads." When he went to Ziklag, those of Manasseh who defected to him were Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of the thousands who were from Manasseh. And they helped David against the bands of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor, and they were captains in the army. For at that time they came to David day by day to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God. Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD: of the sons of Judah bearing shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for war; of the sons of Simeon, mighty men of valor fit for war, seven thousand one hundred; of the sons of Levi four thousand six hundred; Jehoiada, the leader of the Aaronites, and with him three thousand seven hundred; Zadok, a young man, a valiant warrior, and from his father's house twenty-two captains; of the sons of Benjamin, relatives of Saul, three thousand (until then the greatest part of them had remained loyal to the house of Saul); of the sons of Ephraim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men throughout their father's house; of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king; I Chronicles 12:12-31

c. Arrows out of a bow

armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren. The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth; Berachah, and Jehu the Anathothite; I Chronicles 12:2-3

Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me." And He said to me, "You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified."
Isaiah 49:1-3

I know I am anointed and called-I must be a polished shaft, a painful thing-I must have patients with the quiver.

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
Galatians 4:4

We wait for the fullness of time to be shot out, used by God.

d. Separated themselves unto David

David was their "purpose"

We must rediscover purpose and separate ourselves unto it.

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.
Luke 1:38

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,
Luke 24:46

He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
James 1:8

Knowing our purpose eliminates doublemindedness.

e. Faces as faces of a lion

Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains:
I Chronicles 12:8

This speaks of uncontrollable passion, focused and ferocious.

And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD

before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."
Exodus 33:18-23

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,
Revelations 1:9-12

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
II Chronicles 7:14

You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.
Hebrews 12:4

f. Swift as gazelles upon the mountain

Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains:
I Chronicles 12:8

Welcome to the 21st century where speed and change are controlling everything. We must "keep up"; we must run faster.

Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed himself to Joab and ran. And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "But whatever happens, please let me also run after the Cushite." So Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, since you have no news ready?" "But whatever happens," he said, "let me run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain, and outran the Cushite.
II Samuel 18:21-23

Cushi, the one with the message left first

Ahimaaz, the one without the message left last,

Yet Ahimaaz outran Cush.

We must run fast in the High Places

The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:2

These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

I Chronicles 12:15

- g. They went over Jordan at flood time and put to flight all of them in the valleys

Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer.

Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth,

And they lied to Him with their tongue;

For their heart was not steadfast with Him,

Nor were they faithful in His covenant.

But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity,

And did not destroy them.

Yes, many a time He turned His anger away,

And did not stir up all His wrath;

For He remembered that they were but flesh,

A breath that passes away and does not come again.

How often they provoked Him in the wilderness,

And grieved Him in the desert!

Yes, again and again they tempted God,

And limited the Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 78:35-41

There can be no battle too bloody or no obstacle too great. We must have total victory.

Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, "My own hand has saved me.' Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, "Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.'" And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained. But the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, "This

one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go." So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink." And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.

Judges 7:1-6

Fearful and afraid – 22,000

Water tested – 9700

Study Deuteronomy 20- The Law of Battle

From Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and from the city that is in the ravine, as far as Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us; the LORD our God delivered all to us.

Deuteronomy 2:36

He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

II Samuel 23:10

And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines. But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

II Samuel 23:11-12

h. Unified

Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

II Chronicles 12:18 (KJV)

Thine are we

You are me

I am you

We have the same D.N.A.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from

house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
Acts 2:42-47

i. Understanding of the times

of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;
I Chronicles 12:32

Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, And trust in Mount Samaria, Notable persons in the chief nation, To whom the house of Israel comes!
Amos 6:1

We are running out of tomorrows.

j. Could keep rank

of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;
I Chronicles 12:32

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
Romans 12:3

Recognized their capabilities and limitations. Recognized their position and stayed in it.

Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor...
Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
Hebrews 13:7, 17

Recognized spiritual authority and submitted themselves to their "general".

"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! 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; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Isaiah 14:12-15

Pride, iniquity, rebellion against authority is destructive!

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Matthew 25:14-15

And they brought their offering before the LORD, six covered carts and twelve oxen, a cart for every two of the leaders, and for each one an ox; and they presented them before the tabernacle. Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Accept these from them, that they may be used in doing the work of the tabernacle of meeting; and you shall give them to the Levites, to every man according to his service." So Moses took the carts and the oxen, and gave them to the Levites. Two carts and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon, according to their service; and four carts and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari, according to their service, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.⁹ But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because theirs was the service of the holy things, which they carried on their shoulders.

Numbers 7:3-9

"Two wagons and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon" vs. 7

"Four wagons and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari" vs. 8

"But unto the sons' of Kohar he gave none" vs. 9

We are not created equal, we do not have the same gifts! We cannot do what others can do, and they cannot do what we can do! But if we have the "Rank, Body" concept what difference does it make?

TOGETHER we shall CONQUER!

Concerning the Body of Christ

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
Genesis 1:26

There is no such thing as the sovereignty of God apart from His body; without God we cannot without us God will not.

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."
Matthew 9:37-38

God will not call anyone to preach without our permission.

I. The three humiliations of Christ

Incarnation
Crucifixion
Ascension

II. Christ as Head of the Church

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
Ephesians 1:22-23

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.
Ps. 139:13-14

Christ is the Head, the Brain. We are His Body. We must respond.

III. Breath of God; The Holy Spirit

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 being.
Genesis 2:7

The Breath of God-The Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Inhale-Exhale

IV. Cells

Many parts; One Body

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ
I Corinthians 12:12

The body is made up of cells. We are strong not because of our similarity but because of our diversity.

V. Bones

Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"
John 6:60

This is a hard saying. The bones are our doctrine.

Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,
Ephesians 2:20

And they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
II Timothy 4:4

The bones give our physical bodies form and foundation. What would the body be without bone structure? The same is true in the Body of Christ. What would we be without doctrine?

VI. Skin

Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have
Luke 24:39

The skin of the body is the touchable, huggable, soft and approachable part.

VII. Muscles

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
Jude 20

...Of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:11-14

Concerning Natural Gifts

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
Romans 12:1-8

I. Natural Gifts

It is very important that we understand that Romans 12 is not dealing with Spiritual gifts, but gifts that you were born with, natural gifts. Everyone who ever lived is found in Romans 12.

1. Prophecy

The seer, the visionary, the eyes

Where there is no vision, the people perish: But happy is he who keeps the law.
Proverbs 29:18

2. Ministry

The hands – serving-understands the need and supplies it

saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."
Matthew 21:2-3

3. Teaching

The ears – loves hearing about details

The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."
John 20:25

4. Exhortation The feet – this gift strengthens others to reach their full potential.
- Remember the prisoners as if chained with them-- those who are mistreated--since you yourselves are in the body also.
Hebrews 3:13
5. Giving The arms – this gift loves to share with others. They usually have the “Gift of making money”
- Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.
Acts 4:34-37
6. Ruling The head – this gift provides excellent organization and administration skills
- But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.
I Corinthians 11:34
7. Mercy The heart – this gift feels the pain of others and ministers to them
- And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.
Acts 9:26-27

II. The truth of the Twelve Apostles

<u>Apostle</u>	<u>Gift</u>	<u>Part of the Body</u>
Peter	Prophecy	Eyes
Andrew	Serving	Hands

Judas, Thomas	Teaching	Ears
Phillip	Exhortation	Feet
Matthew	Giving	Arms
James	Ruling	Hands
John	Mercy	Heart

III. Do not try to be what you are not.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

Concerning Spiritual Gifts

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills...And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

I Corinthians 12:4-11, 28

I. Spiritual Gifts

These are eleven spiritual gifts. All of the gifts operate from the resident Holy Spirit in your life. If you do not possess the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to know of the capability of supernatural gifts. God actually says, "Give me your natural gifts and I will give you my Spiritual gifts."

1. Word of Wisdom

But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, "Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you
Acts 27:21-24

Something only God knows and He reveals it to the one with the wisdom gift

2. Word of Knowledge

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."
John 1:45-48

Something God knows and a human knows and the knowledge gift reveals it to another human.

3. Faith

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."
Matthew 17:20

The God given assurance that "with God nothing is impossible" (Luke 1:37)

4. Gifts of Healing

Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered
II Kings 20:7

Gifts are plural: Spiritual, physical and psychological. The one in need of healing could be healed naturally or medically but God through the gifts of healing speeds up the process.

5. Working of Miracles

And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."
Mark 7:33-37

It is totally impossible for the one in need to be healed naturally or medically and God through this gift "works a miracle".

6. Prophecy

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all-- that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Acts 10:34-48

Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Acts 11:28

This meaning has dual application. It means forthtelling, anointed preaching, and foretelling or predicting future blessings or cursings.

7. Discerning of Spirits

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.
Acts 10:34

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
John 8:44

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;
Acts 17:22

There are Three types of Spirits that you will always deal with: The Spirit of God, the spirit of Satan and the spirit of man. This gift enables you to know the difference.

8. Tongues

There are three dimensions of speaking with tongues.

Tongues as the evidence of receiving the Holy Ghost:
For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.
Acts 10:46

Tongues as a gift:
If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.
I Corinthians 14:27

Tongues as a devotion:
For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries... For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.
I Corinthians 14:2, 14-15.

9. Interpretation of Tongues

A person with this gift operates in conjunction with the Gift of speaking in tongues. The one with the gift of tongues “delivers the message”, the one with the interpretation gift translates it to the understanding language. I Corinthians 14:27-28 governs the two.

If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.
I Corinthians 14:27-28

II. Spiritual Order

Over the years, the gifts of the Spirit, in many situations have been misused. It must be emphatically understood that the gifts of the Spirit will never take the place of the preaching of the Word of God. The gifts enhance and empower, but they never have preeminence over God's anointed word.

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.
I Corinthians 14:1-3

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:14

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
I Corinthians 1:18-21

III. Lesser known but desperately needed gifts

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.
I Corinthians 12:28

1. Helps

So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
Acts 18:26

2. Government

But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.
I Corinthians 11:34

Concerning the Anointing

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah
I Samuel 16:13

There is no way of explaining with earthly words the importance of the anointing. It is explained best with heavenly words in I Samuel 16:13.

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.
I John 2:20

who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
II Corinthians 3:6

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:
Romans 10:15

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
Ephesians 2:1

I. Anointing Oil

The anointing of the Old Testament was connected to the anointing oil which consisted of five principle spices. So it is with the anointing in the New Testament.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
Acts 1:8

Moreover the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Also take for yourself quality spices--five hundred shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much sweet-smelling cinnamon (two hundred and fifty shekels), two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling cane,
Exodus 30:22-33

1. Nine pounds of calamus

Calamus is a loft reed that grows by a river. It remains green when everything else is dead.

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
John 7:38

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.
Proverbs 20:27

This speaks of the tender, good, spirit of a person that is nourished by a river.

2. Eighteen pounds of Kasha

Kasha is a powder that is ground and crushed from a special bark. The more it is crushed the more fragrance it brings.

By your patience possess your souls.
Luke 21:19

This speaks of the unrelenting, never tiring patience. Nothing just Happens, you make it happen with much patience.

3. Eighteen pounds of Myrrh

Myrrh is a plant that exudes gum raisin like tear drops.

Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!
Jeremiah 9:1

Jesus wept.
John 11:35

Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD.
II Kings 20:5

You must not ever expect a "tearless" anointing. Tears move God and tears move people.

4. Nine pounds of cinnamon

There is no fragrance like cinnamon, just as there is no power like love.

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
Ephesians 5:2

Love is the fragrance that makes the anointing acceptable.

5. One and one half gallons of Olive oil

The Olive fruit is processed until all impurities are removed.

Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."
II Corinthian 6:17

This speaks of a holy and pure life.

In summary, the anointing oil, this heavenly mixture, consist of nine pounds of good spirit, eighteen pounds of patience, eighteen pounds of tears, nine pounds of love and one and a half gallons of holiness and purity.

It shall not be poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.
Exodus 30:32

The anointing oil could not be poured on flesh, but on the priest who was clothed with special garments.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
Galatians 3:27

“Put on Christ”, means to wear Him like a garment, so when the anointing flows “over” you, the people do not see your abilities but the actions of Jesus Christ.

Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people
Exodus 30:33

The commandment states you cannot add to or subtract from and do not pour it on a stranger. You cannot fake the anointing.

The Truth of Twelve is: To be one of the twelve, you must be anointed.

Illustration: “Hands Bigger than Mine”

Concerning the Original Contract

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
Luke 24:46-47

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
Acts 1:8

I. Get back to the Original Contract

We must, in the last day, simplify complicated Christianity. The way to simplify is to rediscover the original contract. What did Jesus Christ tell us to do?

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love
Revelations 2:4

for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost
Luke 19:10

The original contract simple states you "get saved" and tell others how to "get saved". It is a starving man who has found bread telling other starving men where to find bread.

1. Reaching others

For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,
Romans 9:3

a. Multiplication rather than addition

The first church in the book of Acts went from 120 members to 87,000 members in just one year because they went from addition to multiplication. It is the Truth of Twelve.

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
Acts 2:41

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.
Acts 6:7

If a church with 200 members, at the beginning of the year would win one a month and teach them to win one a month by December the church would have 2,176,000 members. All anyone would have to win the entire year is twelve souls. Now do you understand this course description and course objectives? It's all about souls, souls, souls and it's all about twelve. It is about equipping yourself for this magnificent obsession.

b. Filling "Jerusalem"

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

Acts 5:27-28

"You have filled Jerusalem"

c. We have the "product" they are searching for!

The Gospel must be viewed as a product. The lost world is the consumer and we must market the product to the consumer.

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

I Corinthians 9:19-23

"...by all means save some."

2. Soul Winning according to Ruth

We must borrow from the incredible book of Ruth, the application for soul winning.

a. Famine in the house of Bread

Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.
Ruth 1:1

b. The matchmaker

There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.
Ruth 2:1

c. The Bloodline

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse
Matthew 1:5

I must do more: I must reach more.

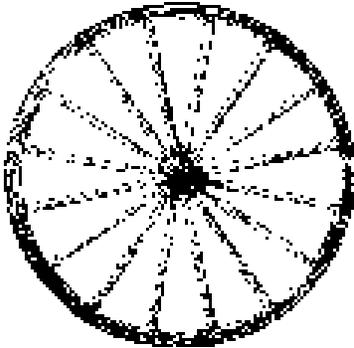
Without God I cannot, without me, God will not.

Please God, make me one of the Twelve.

I am only a spark: make a fire.
I am only a string: make me a harp
I am only a drop: make me a fountain.
I am only a hill: make me a mountain.
I am only a feather: make me a wing.
I am only a servant: make me a king
I am only a link: make me a chain.
I am only a sprinkle: make me a rain.

Concerning the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man

The Closer we get to God the closer we get to one another



God is in the center of the wheel and we are represented by the spokes. As we approach God and draw nearer to Him, we also grow closer to one another.

The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel.
Ezekiel 1:6

For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I Corinthians 1:11-13

APPENDIX

APPENDIX "A"

foundations	twelve gates twelve tribes twelve angels twelve foundations twelve apostles twelve pearls twelve manner of fruits	<i>page 53</i>
day unto day	twelve houses twelve years twelve months twelve winds twelve hours	<i>page 54</i>
a miracle	twelve baskets	<i>page 55</i>
partakers	twelve cakes	<i>page 56</i>
the chosen	twelve ordained twelve tribes twelve thrones	<i>page 57</i>
the altar	twelve pillars twelve men twelve stones twelve barrels of water	<i>page 58</i>
judgment	twelve settings of stones	<i>page 59</i>
Belial	twelve pieces	<i>page 60</i>
hear the rod	twelve rods	<i>page 61</i>
the journey	twelve wells of water	<i>page 62</i>
dedication	twelve bullocks twelve rams twelve lambs twelve kids of the goats twelve chargers of silver twelve silver bowls twelve spoons of gold	<i>page 63</i>

brotherhood twelve princes
 twelve brethren *page 64*

persecuted twelve patriarchs
 twelve men *page 65*

children twelve years old *page 66*

twelve gates
twelve tribes
twelve angels
twelve foundations
twelve apostles
twelve pearls
twelve manner of fruits

A surprisingly large number of patterns of twelve exist in the scripture. Because nothing in God's word is arbitrary, patterns of twelve are woven throughout, revealing truth at every turn.

The prophet Ezekiel and the apostle John were given extraordinarily similar visions regarding the frame of the city of God. Both accounts describe four walls having twelve named gates, one for each of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. Each set of three gates faced a particular cardinal direction: north, east, south, and west.

In John's vision of the *new Jerusalem*, twelve angels were at the twelve gates. John's vision further describes the wall of the city as having *twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb*. The imagery of twelve "pearly" gates and golden streets includes the "tree of life," described as bearing *twelve manner of fruits, and yielding her fruit every month*.

References to patterns of twelve in the visions of Ezekiel and John establish a heavenly pattern, or foundation, for things on earth.

...the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city ...

And the gates of the city shall be after the names of the tribes of Israel:

three gates northward;
one gate of Reuben,
one gate of Judah,
one gate of Levi.

And at the east side... three gates; and
one gate of Joseph,
one gate of Benjamin,
one gate of Dan.

And at the south side... three gates;
one gate of Simeon,
one gate of Issachar,
one gate of Zebulun.

At the west side ... three gates;
one gate of Gad,
one gate of Asher,
one gate of Naphtali.

...and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.

Ez. 40:2;48:31-35

I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven... having the glory of God ... and had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

On the east three gates;
on the north three gates;
on the south three gates; and
on the west three gates.

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
...the twelve gates were twelve pearls... and the street of the city was pure gold.... In the midst of the street of it ... was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits....

Rev.21:2,11-14,21; 22:2

twelve years
twelve months
twelve winds
twelve hours

Truth sheds light on the darkness of deception. Astrology and its twelve houses of the Zodiac falsely interpret relationships between movements of the heavenly bodies and events on earth.

For example, each Chinese new year is designated one of twelve astrological years (e.g., year of the dragon, etc.), determined by the observed revolutions of Jupiter. Ancient Chinese astrological “messages of the heavens” were interpreted from observed patterns of twelve years, twelve months, and twelve winds. The “harmony” of heaven and earth determined prosperity and misfortune, good and evil, the coming of floods or drought, abundance or famine.

Time is a creation of an eternal God. As surely as God began time, it will end. (Rev 10:6). All creation is temporal. God’s eternal word declares that all men “hear” the “voice” of each new day (Psalm 19:1-3), but vain imaginations of unrighteous men *changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the creator.* (Romans 1.25).

Time, just like our will, must be yielded to him day unto day. If we want more of him, he requires more of us: *could ye not watch with me one hour?* (Matthew 26:40).

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
Heb. 11:3

...darkness was upon the face of the deep... and God said, Let there be light: and there was light; and God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
Genesis 1:3-5

...another mighty angel ... cried with a loud voice ... that there should be time no longer.
Revelation 10:1,3,6

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.
Psalm 19:1-3

O ye hypocrites,
ye can discern the face of the sky;
but can ye not discern
the signs of the times?
Mat. 16:2-3

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day:
the night cometh, when no man can work.
John. 9:4

Jesus answered,
Are there not twelve hours in the day?
If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not,
because he seeth the light of this world.
John. 11:9

twelve baskets

All four gospels record the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, each providing unique insight into the making of a miracle. Jesus and his disciples had crossed the sea of Galilee to a *desert place apart to rest a while*, but the multitude had followed them out of the cities. When Jesus saw the great company he asked three things before feeding the multitude:

1) *...he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.* (Jn. 6:5,6). Philip's response that *two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient*, implies they did not have enough money; and even if they did, there was no place to buy bread.

2) *He said unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew they say, five loaves and two fishes* (Mark 6:38) ... but *what are they among so many?* (John 6:9).

3) *And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. And they sat down in ranks by hundreds and by fifties* (Mark 6:39-40).

There could be no doubt in the mind of Jesus' disciples that he had performed a miracle. The lesson, however, was too soon forgotten. After Jesus had sent his disciples back across the sea of Galilee, a storm arose and they were afraid. Mark's account says *they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened* (Mark 6:52).

...he took the five loaves and the two fishes,
and looking up to heaven,
he blessed them, and brake,
and gave to the disciples
to set before the multitude.

And they did eat, and were all filled:
and there was taken up
of fragments that remained to them
twelve baskets.

Luke 9:16,17

Then those men, when they had seen
the miracle that Jesus did, said,
This is of a truth that prophet
that should come into the world.

John 6:14

And straightway he constrained his disciples
to get into the ship, and to go
to the other side before unto Bethsaida,
while he sent away the people.

And when he had sent them away,
he departed into a mountain to pray.

And when even was come,
the ship was in the midst of the sea,
and he alone on the land.

And he saw them toiling in rowing;
for the wind was contrary unto them:
and about the fourth watch of the night
he cometh unto them,
walking upon the sea, and
would have passed by them.

But when they saw him walking upon the sea,
they supposed it had been a spirit,
and cried out:

For they all saw him, and were troubled.

And immediately he talked with them,
and saith unto them,
Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

And he went up unto them into the ship;
and the wind ceased:
and they were sore amazed in themselves
beyond measure, and wondered.

For they considered not the miracle
of the loaves:
for their heart was hardened.

Mark 6:45-52

twelve cakes

The shewbread -- an offering initially reserved for the house of Aaron -- is a type of Christ, the Bread of God. Hebrews teaches we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. (Hebrews 3:14). A hardened heart of unbelief and the deceitfulness of sin separates us from the fellowship of the living God.

The day following the miracle of the five thousand fed, the people took shipping ... seeking for Jesus. When they found him, Jesus rebuked them saying, *Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled* (John 6:26). John 6:27-59 records Jesus' magnificent discourse on the bread of life. A recurring theme throughout this passage echoes a similar theme in Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well: *Whoso drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whoso drinketh of the water I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life* (John 4:13-14).

The notion of a believer's perpetual hunger or thirst is further challenged when: *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink ... out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water* (John 7:37-38).

Wasn't it the five foolish virgins who *took their lamps and took no oil with them?* (Matthew 25:1-13).

For we are made partakers of Christ,
if we hold the beginning of our confidence
steadfast unto the end;

While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice,
harden not your hearts,
as in the provocation.

Heb. 3:14-15

And thou shalt take fine flour, and
bake twelve cakes thereof ... and
thou shalt set them in two rows,
six on a row, upon the pure table
before the LORD. ...

Lev. 24: 5,6

Labour not for the meat which perisheth,
but for that meat which endureth
unto everlasting life...

For the bread of God is he
which cometh down from heaven,
and giveth life unto the world. ...

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life:
he that cometh to me
shall never hunger; and
he that believeth on me
shall never thirst. ...

Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness,
and are dead. ...

I am the living bread
which came down from heaven:
if any man eat of this bread,
he shall live for ever:
and the bread that I will give is my flesh,
which I will give for the life of the world.

...Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man,
and drink his blood,
ye have no life in you. ...

He that eateth my flesh,
and drinketh my blood,
dwelleth in me, and I in him.

As the living Father hath sent me,
and I live by the Father:
so he that eateth me,
even he shall live by me.

John 6:27,33,35,49,51,53,56,57

**twelve ordained
twelve tribes
twelve thrones**

After Jesus' discourse on the bread of life in the synagogue at Capernaum, many of his disciples said, *This is a hard saying, who can hear it? And from that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him* (Jn. 6:60,66).

In John's first epistle, he must have recalled this test of discipleship when he wrote:

*They went out from us,
but they were not of us;
for if they had been of us,
they would no doubt have continued with us:
but they went out, that they might be made manifest
that they were not all of us.*

(1 John 2:19)

Jesus was moved to ask the chosen twelve, *Will ye also go away?* Luke writes of their election: *...he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles* (Luke 6:21).

Peter, after seeing the rich young ruler turn away, asks Jesus: *...we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?* Jesus answered:

...ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthias was chosen by lot (Acts 1:16-26) to replace Judas as one of the twelve. Paul was called by the risen Lord and both he and Barnabas were designated apostles by the Holy Ghost.

Many therefore of his disciples,
when they had heard this, said,
This is an hard saying; who can hear it?
When Jesus knew in himself
that his disciples murmured at it,
he said unto them, Doth this offend you?
What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend
up where he was before?

It is the spirit that quickeneth;
the flesh profiteth nothing:
the words that I speak unto you,
they are spirit, and they are life.
But there are some of you that believe not.
For Jesus knew from the beginning
who they were that believed not,
and who should betray him.

And he said, Therefore said I unto you,
that no man can come unto me,
except it were given unto him of my Father.
From that time many of his disciples went back,
and walked no more with him.

Then said Jesus unto the twelve,
Will ye also go away? John 6:60-67

And he ordained twelve,
that they should be with him, and
that he might send them forth to preach, and to
have power to heal sicknesses, and
to cast out devils Mark 3:14-15

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,
and ordained you, that ye should go and
bring forth fruit... John 15:16

Wherefore, holy brethren,
partakers of the heavenly calling,
consider the Apostle and High Priest
of our profession, Christ Jesus. Heb. 3:1

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted,
the Holy Ghost said,
Separate me Barnabas and Saul
for the work whereunto I have called them.
Acts 13:2

...when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of,
they rent their clothes....
Acts 14:14

twelve pillars
twelve men
twelve stones
twelve barrels of water

The pillars of Moses' altar symbolize more than the twelve tribes. Each pillar represented the manifest presence of God. This altar was an early form of the Tabernacle. A similar early form of the Tabernacle is described in Ex. 33:7-11:

Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp ... as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshiped, every man in his tent door. And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.

After Israel miraculously crossed the Jordan, twelve men -- one from each tribe -- were chosen to carry twelve stones from midst of the Jordan to build a memorial for a testimony to their children.

Elijah, when challenging the priests of Baal, built an altar using twelve stones according to the number of tribes. Before asking the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to answer by fire, Elijah had twelve barrels of water poured on the sacrifice and the wood, filling the trench around the altar. When God consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the water with fire, the people said: The Lord, he is God (1 Kings 18:39).

And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Ex. 24:4

Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. ...

That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?

Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

Joshua 4:2,3,6,7,9

And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob...

And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar ... and said,

Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time... And he said, Do it the third time....

1 Kings 18:31-34

twelve settings of stones

Twelve precious stones in gold settings, each engraved with the names of the children of Israel were arrayed in four rows of three stones on Aaron's breastplate of judgment:

And Aaron shall bear the names
of the children of Israel
in the breastplate of judgment
upon his heart,
when he goeth in unto the holy place,
for a memorial before the LORD continually.
(Ex. 28:29)

Judgment within a family should be remedial, but judgment of the wicked is penal. If self-judgment is neglected, the Lord judges us and we are chastised:

...let a man examine himself
... for if we would judge ourselves,
we should not be judged.
But when we are judged,
we are chastened of the Lord,
that we should not be condemned
with the world.
(I Cor. 11:28,31-32)

John, in his first epistle, tells us if our hearts condemn us not, then we have confidence before God (I Jn. 3:21). John further explains this confidence:

And this is the confidence that we have in him,
that, if we ask any thing
according to his will, he heareth us: and
if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions
that we desired of him.
(I Jn. 5:14-15)

And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment
with cunning work...
And thou shalt set in it settings of stones,
even four rows of stones:
the first row shall be
a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle...
and the second row shall be
an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond
and the third row
a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.
and the fourth row
a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper:
they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.
And the stones shall be with
the names of the children of Israel,
twelve, according to their names,
like the engravings of a signet;
every one with his name shall they be
according to the twelve tribes.

Ex. 28:15-23

For the time is come that judgment
must begin at the house of God:
and if it first begin at us,
what shall the end be
of them that obey not the gospel of God?
I Peter 4:17

For if God spared not the angels that sinned,
but cast them down to hell,
and delivered them into
chains of darkness,
to be reserved unto judgment;
And spared not the old world,
but saved Noah the eighth person,
a preacher of righteousness,
bringing in the flood
upon the world of the ungodly;
And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha
into ashes ... making them an ensample
unto those that after should live ungodly;
And delivered just Lot, vexed with
the filthy conversation of the wicked:
The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly
out of temptations, and
to reserve the unjust
unto the day of judgment to be punished.
II Peter 2:4-7,9

twelve pieces

Some lessons taught by the Truth of Twelve are difficult; none more so than the uniquely harsh account of an adulterous concubine, forgiven by her husband only to be slain in Gibeah of Benjamin by the sons of Belial. Her body was dismembered and sent *throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel during the time of the judges, with the admonition: consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds.*

(Judges 19:29).

Belial means worthless. Moses referred to such worthlessness as an abomination: *Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known.*

(Deuteronomy 13:13).

The wickedness of the men of Gibeah was compounded by their being sons of Benjamin, not strangers as in Sodom. Three hundred years later, when Saul was anointed king, he *...went home to Gibeah ... but the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.*

(I Samuel 10:26,27).

Two generations later: *there are gathered unto him (Jeroboam) vain men, the children of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon....*

(II Chronicles 13:7).

In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Judges 21:25

...there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Bethlehemjudah.

... his concubine played the whore against him, and went away ... unto her father's house ... her husband arose, and went after her , to speak friendly unto her, and to bring her again...

they turned aside thither, to go in and to lodge in Gibeah...

as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, ... spake to the master of the house, ... saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him.

...the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her ... abused her all night.

... her lord ... took a knife, and ... divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel ... all that saw it said, There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day....

Judges 19:1-30

...what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial?

II Cor. 6:14,15

twelve rods

Stated simply, iniquity is rebellion against authority. Abounding iniquity is prominent among the signs given by Jesus, when asked by his disciples: what shall be the sign of thy coming?

Korah ...rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown (Numbers 16:2), in an attempt to create a priestly order without divine authority. Their complaint against Moses and the Levites, declared they had brought them to the wilderness to be killed, from a land of milk and honey (Egypt), and had not brought them to a promised land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards.

(Numbers 16:13-14).

Jude (verse 11) referred to Korah's rebellious act as gainsaying, which means: against the word (i.e., against the authority of Moses). God miraculously and convincingly confirmed Moses' authority and his appointment of the Levitical priesthood by causing Aaron's rod to be the only rod out of twelve dead rods to bud, blossom and bear almonds.

The prophet Micah proclaims the message of the rod:

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;
and what doth the LORD require of thee,
but to do justly,
and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with thy God?

The LORD's voice crieth ... hear ye the rod,
and who hath appointed it.

Micah 6:8,9

...because iniquity shall abound,
the love of many shall wax cold.

Mat. 24:12

...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven
against all ungodliness and
unrighteousness of men,
who hold the truth in unrighteousness
... For this cause God gave them up unto vile
affections....

Romans 1:19,26

...the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Speak unto the children of Israel, and
take ... according to the house
of their fathers twelve rods:
write thou every man's name upon his rod. And
thou shalt write Aaron's name
upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be
for the head of the house of their fathers ... the
man's rod, whom I shall choose,
shall blossom: and

... the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi
was budded, and brought forth buds, and
bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.

And the LORD said unto Moses,
Bring Aaron's rod again
before the testimony,
to be kept for a token against the rebels....

Numbers 17:1-10

...these men have provoked the LORD
...the earth opened her mouth,
and swallowed them up
...and all that appertained to them,
went down alive into the pit,
and the earth closed upon them:
and they perished
from among the congregation.

Numbers 16:30-33

Nevertheless the foundation of God
standeth sure, having this seal,
The Lord knoweth them that are his. And,
Let every one that nameth the name of Christ
depart from iniquity.

II Timothy 2:19

twelve wells of water

God had just orchestrated the most spectacular deliverance since Noah. The victory celebration over their Egyptian oppressors had happened three days earlier. The children of Israel, having found no water in the desert wilderness of Shur, were confronted with only the bitter waters of Marah to drink. As surely as they had been delivered, they had been led to this place in their journey to prove them. God wanted them to know two things: who he was, and what he knew about them individually and collectively as a people.

The deliverance at Marah, not only met Israel's present need, but was accompanied with a promise: I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians, for I am the LORD that healeth thee. After the trial of Marah came the twelve wells of Elim, an oasis of rest, complete with seventy palms.

Nothing about God is arbitrary or left to chance. Every "circumstance" in our life has a purpose. There is no earthly destination in this journey of life -- only Marah's and Elim's. Peter's first epistle teaches we should not consider the "Marah's" along our path as though some strange thing happened, but rejoice Paul wrote if we learn to glory in tribulations, the result is patience, experience and hope. (Romans 5:3-4). Such hope is essential. Paul later wrote we are saved by it. (Romans 8:24)

Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD,
for he hath triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider
hath he thrown into the sea.

Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and
...they went three days in the wilderness,
and found no water.

And when they came to Marah,
they could not drink of the waters ...
for they were bitter....

And the people murmured against Moses,
saying, What shall we drink?

And he cried unto the LORD; and
the LORD shewed him a tree,
which when he had cast into the waters,
the waters were made sweet: ...
there he proved them,

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken
to the voice of the LORD thy God,
and wilt do that which is right in his sight,
and wilt give ear to his commandments,
and keep all his statutes,

I will put none of these diseases upon thee,
which I have brought upon the Egyptians:
for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

And they came to Elim,
where were twelve wells of water,
and threescore and ten palm trees:
and they encamped there by the waters.

Exodus 15:21-27

Beloved, think it not strange
concerning the fiery trial
which is to try you,
as though some strange thing
happened unto you:
but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers
of Christ's sufferings; that,
when his glory shall be revealed,
ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.
... the God of all grace, who hath called us
unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,
after that ye have suffered a while,
make you perfect (complete),
stablish, strengthen, settle you.

I Peter 4:12,13; 5:10

twelve bullocks
twelve rams
twelve lambs
twelve kids of the goats
twelve chargers of silver
twelve silver bowls
twelve spoons of gold

Dedication is a symbolic act celebrating the inauguration of a covenant relationship - a testament. Solomon's dedication of the temple, as he stood before altar and the congregation, expressed the underlying purpose of a covenant relationship between God and his people: *That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else.* (I Kings 8:60)

The offerings associated with Moses' dedication of the altar of the Tabernacle represented two principles: the burnt offering of twelve bullocks, rams, lambs and kids of the goats symbolized sacrificial obedience, while the twelve chargers, bowls and spoons symbolized vessels of consecration.

Just as Jesus became our sacrifice, covering us through the obedience of repentance, we are charged to present ourselves a living sacrifice, daily -- as a vessel, consecrated to God and his purpose in the earth.

Salvation is God's gift to whosoever will; our daily walk, consecrated to his service, is our gift to him.

And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:

...let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require: That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else.

I Kings 8:22,59-60

This was the dedication of the altar, in the day when it was anointed, by the princes of Israel: twelve chargers of silver, twelve silver bowls, twelve spoons of gold ... full of incense All the oxen for the burnt offering were twelve bullocks, the rams twelve, the lambs of the first year twelve, with their meat offering: and the kids of the goats for sin offering twelve.

Numbers 7:84-87

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come ... by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us ... and for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament ...

Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

Hebrews 9:11,15,18

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1

**twelve princes
twelve brethren**

God's word refers to the sons of both Ishmael and Jacob as twelve princes. From each family sprang a great nation. The twelve sons of Ishmael, although named, are less well known than the twelve sons of Israel:

*These are the sons of Ishmael, and
these are their names,
by their towns, and
by their castles;
twelve princes according to their nations.*
Gen. 25: 16

World headlines today confirm the angel's prophecy to Hagar: ...he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. Although Ishmael's sons were blessed, we know that God favored Israel's sons:

*...God hath chosen thee to be a special people
...above all people....
The LORD did not set his love upon you,
nor choose you, because
ye were more in number than any people;
for ye were the fewest of all people:
But because the LORD loved you, and
because he would keep the oath
which he had sworn unto your fathers....
Deut. 7: 6-8*

When Joseph's brothers appeared before him in Egypt, they identified themselves as twelve brethren, even though they thought Joseph to be dead. The love of God transcends epic conflicts between brothers:

*And this commandment have we from him,
That he who loveth God love his brother also.
I John 4:21*

Now the LORD had said unto Abram ...
I will make of thee a great nation ... and
in thee shall all families of the earth
be blessed.
Gen. 12:1-3

And the angel of the LORD said unto (Hagar),
Behold, thou art with child and
shalt bear a son, and
shalt call his name Ishmael ...
And he will be a wild man;
his hand will be against every man,
and every man's hand against him;
and he shall dwell in the presence
of all his brethren.
Gen. 16:11,12

And God said, Sarah thy wife shall
bear thee a son indeed; and
thou shalt call his name Isaac: and
I will establish my covenant with him
for an everlasting covenant, and
with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael,
I have heard thee: Behold,
I have blessed him, and
will make him fruitful, and
will multiply him exceedingly;
twelve princes shall he beget, and
I will make him a great nation.
Gen. 17:19,20

And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael:
Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and
Mibsam, and Mishma, and Dumah,
and Massa, Hadar, and Tema, Jetur,
Naphish, and Kedemah....
Gen. 25:13,15

And they came unto Jacob their father
unto the land of Canaan, and
told him all that befell unto them; saying,
... We be twelve brethren,
sons of our father; one is not, and
the youngest is this day with our father
in the land of Canaan.
Gen. 42:29,32

twelve patriarchs twelve men

Stephen, according to Acts, was full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. His defense against false accusations and his death by stoning brought Saul one step closer to his encounter with Jesus. Beginning with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs (Acts 7:8), Stephen masterfully summarized God's dealing with their fathers and then charged the council with the betrayal and murder of Jesus, just as their fathers had slain them which shewed before the coming of the Just One. After Stephen's death, Saul continued to make havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison (Acts 8:3).

Witnessing Stephen's death played no small part in Paul's conversion. His missionary journey to Ephesus led him to twelve men, disciples of John the Baptist. (Acts 19:1). It seems reasonable to assume these twelve may have become the foundation for the church at Ephesus -- the subject of Paul's Ephesian letter and the admonition in Revelation:

...thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:4,5

...Stephen, full of faith and power,
did great wonders and miracles
among the people.

Then there arose certain of the synagogue ...
not able to resist the wisdom
and the spirit by which he spake.
And they stirred up the people ...
brought him to the council ... and
set up false witnesses.

Then said the high priest, Are these things so?
... And he said ... Ye stiffnecked and
uncircumcised in heart and ears,
ye do always resist the Holy Ghost:
as your fathers did, so do ye.

Which of the prophets have not
your fathers persecuted? and
they have slain them which shewed before
of the coming of the Just One;
of whom ye have been now
the betrayers and murderers:
Who have received the law
by the disposition of angels, and
have not kept it. ...

(They) cast him out of the city, and stoned him:
and the witnesses laid down their clothes
at a young man's feet,
whose name was Saul.

Acts 6:8,9,10,12,13; 7:2,51-53,58

...Paul having passed through the upper coasts
came to Ephesus: and
finding certain disciples,
He said unto them,
Have ye received the Holy Ghost
since ye believed?

... when Paul had laid his hands upon them,
the Holy Ghost came on them; and
they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And
all the men were about twelve.

Acts 19:1,2,6,7

twelve years old

The age of twelve is traditionally considered the age of accountability - an acknowledgement of a transition from childhood to adulthood. Some folks never quite make the trip; Manasseh was one upon whom was thrust the responsibility of ruling the children of Israel while he was yet a child: *Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign ... but did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.*

Jesus raised the twelve year old daughter of the ruler of the synagogue from the dead. Taking only Peter, James, and John with him, Jesus disputed the reports of her death. Unbelievers laughed him to scorn when he said: *the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. When she arose, and walked ... they were astonished with a great astonishment.*

Jesus was twelve years old when the scripture breaks its silence concerning his childhood: *the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.* (Luke 2:40). His encounter with the doctors in the temple, both hearing them, and asking them questions, caused all who heard him to be astonished at his understanding and answers. Later, Jesus would underscore his concern for children (Luke 18:15,16):

...they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples ... rebuked them, Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Manasseh was twelve years old
when he began to reign ...
But did that which was evil
in the sight of the LORD,
like unto the abominations of the heathen,
whom the LORD had cast out
before the children of Israel.

II Chronicles 33:1,2

...there came from the ruler of the
synagogue's
house certain which said,
Thy daughter is dead:
why troublest thou the Master any further?
As soon as Jesus heard
the word that was spoken,
he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue,
be not afraid, only believe. ...

And he cometh to the house
of the ruler of the synagogue ...
And he took the damsel by the hand,
and said unto her, Talitha cumi;
which is, being interpreted,
Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.
And straightway the damsel arose, and walked;
for she was of the age of twelve years.

Mark 5:35,36,38,41,42

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit,
filled with wisdom: and
the grace of God was upon him.
Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year
at the feast of the passover.
And when he was twelve years old,
they went up to Jerusalem
after the custom of the feast.
And when they had fulfilled the days,
as they returned, the child Jesus tarried
behind in Jerusalem ...
after three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the doctors,
both hearing them, and
asking them questions.
And all that heard him were astonished
at his understanding and answers.

Luke 2:40-47