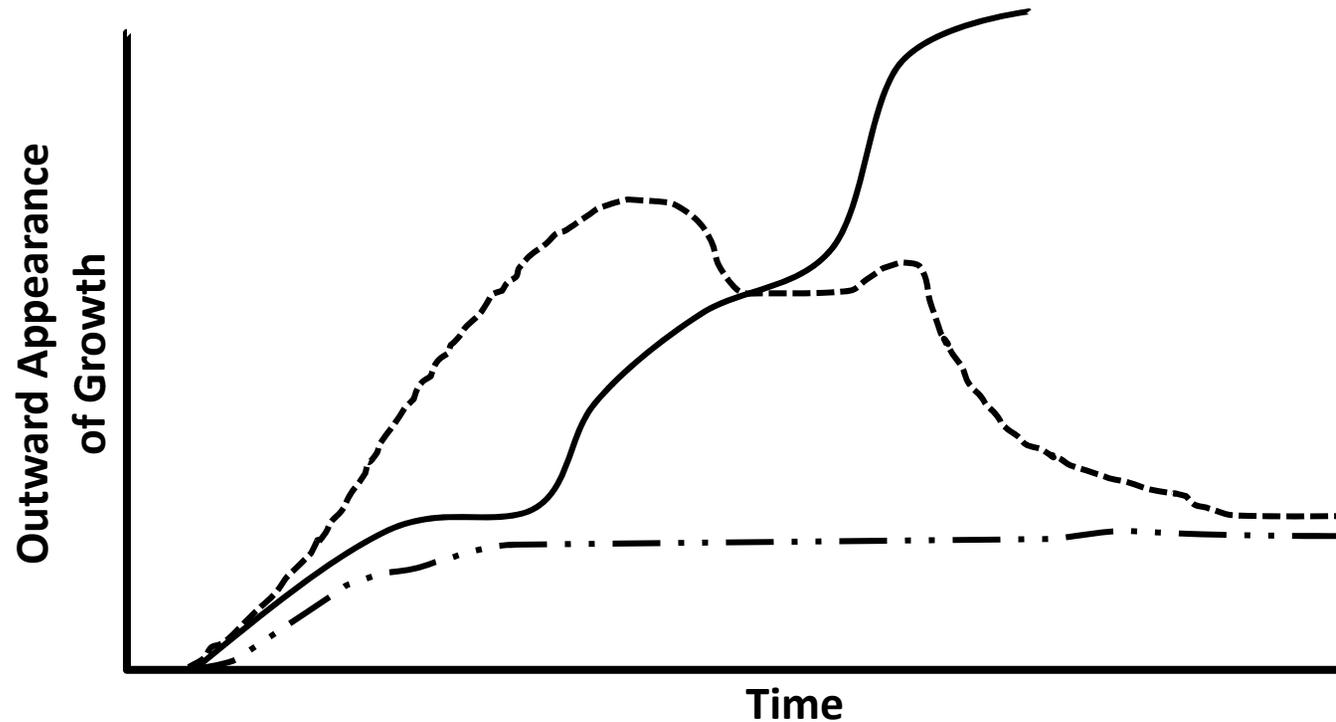


# Sunday Sampler

Lesson 1 - Abide in Christ

With  
Like  
For **JESUS**

# Spiritual Growth Trends



## Complacent

- Spectator
- Self Seeking
- Carnal Minded
  - Materialistic
  - Power Hungry
  - Self Confident
  - Intrigued by sin
- Ritualistic
- Permissive

## Over Achiever

- Rapid External Change
- Hard Worker
- Naturally Talented
- Impatient
- Intolerant
- Strong Willed
- Seeking Personal Glory
- Person of Action; No Time for Quiet Reflection
- Prone to Burn-out

## Abiding in Christ

- Steady Growth
- Changes Internally
- Recognizes inadequacy
- Supernatural ability
- Humble & Submissive
- Feeds on God's Word
- Prayer Warrior
- Walking Witness

# A Case of Mistaken Identity?



What's the use, I'll never measure up.  
I've always been like this.  
I'll never be able to change

Or

I just have to be more dedicated and try harder.  
I can do anything I set my mind to do.  
God has blessed me with a lot of capabilities; I  
just need to apply myself.



# A Case of Mistaken Identity?

Any time we rely on ourselves to accomplish even the most humanitarian effort, we are living according to the flesh and it is considered by God as open hostility. (Romans 8:5-8)

Plunging forward in reliance on our capabilities or holding back for fear of our inabilities are results of not knowing who we are in Christ.

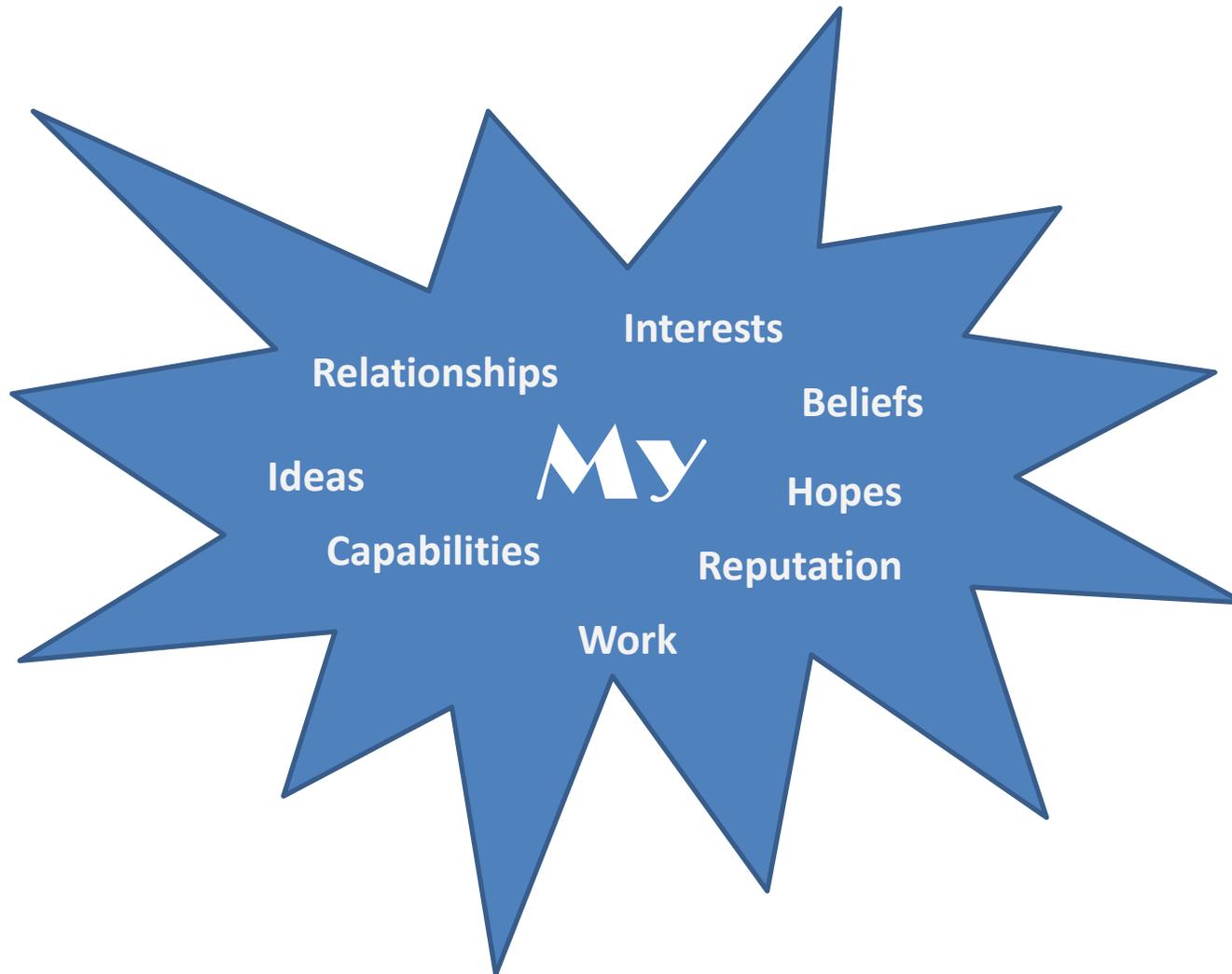
**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**Galatians 2:20**

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

**Philippians 4:13**

# Tell Me About Yourself



# Road of Life

My life; my agenda. Jesus has a place there, but not much more than any other interest. Of course I run to Him when I get in over my head, but I usually handle about everything my way.

Dreams

Obstacles

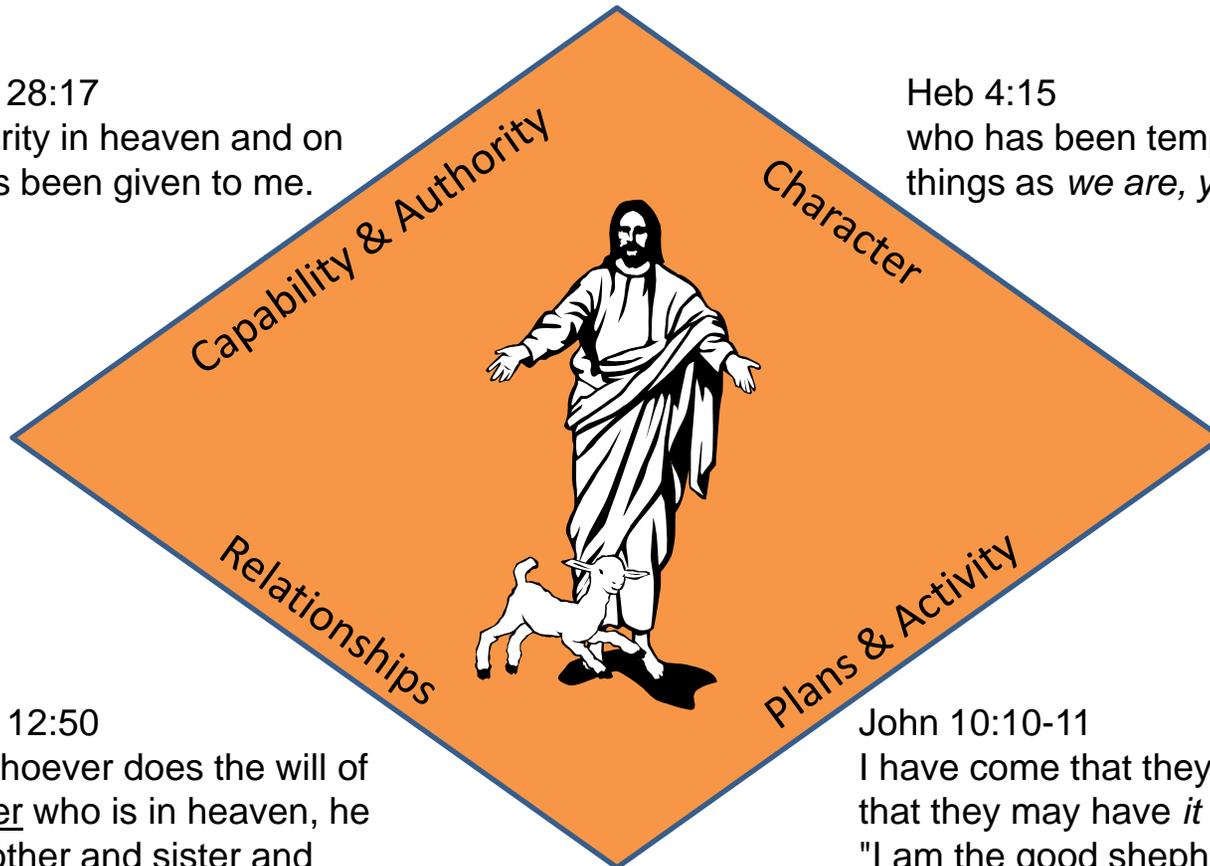
Life



# Who is Christ Jesus?

Matthew 28:17  
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Heb 4:15  
who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet without sin.*

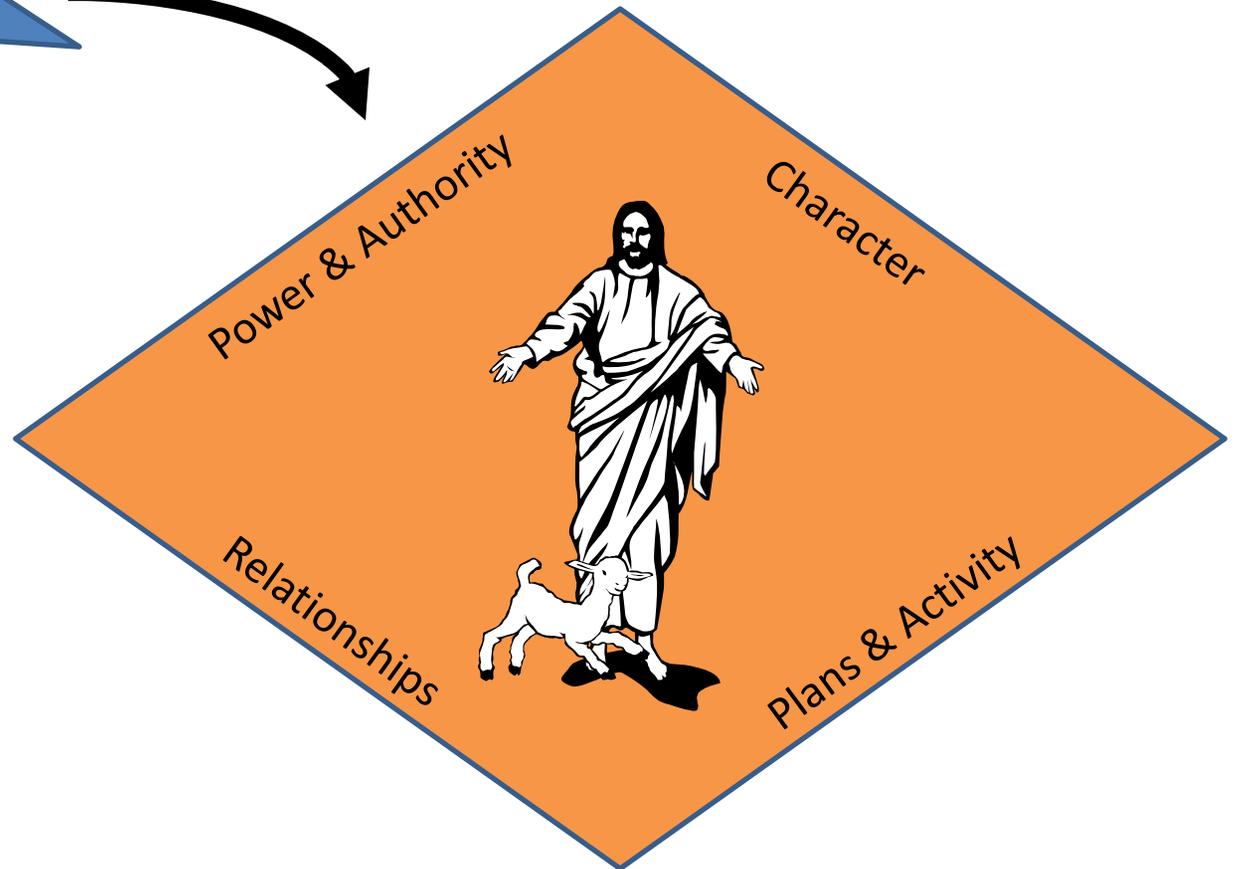


Matthew 12:50  
<sup>50</sup> "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

John 10:10-11  
I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it more abundantly.*  
"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

# We are “Immersed” Into Christ

*1 Corinthians 12:13*



# We are “Immersed” Into Christ

*1 Corinthians 12:13*



I lay all that I am at His feet and am baptized into Him. In Christ, His relationships and His plans become mine, His character is reproduced in me, and the tasks He gives me are accomplished through His power and authority.

# Justification

**According to the Bible, justification has two simultaneous results:**

- Our sins (past, present and future) are removed.
- We become a new creation, completely righteous before God.

**How can we have this justification?**

Romans 10:10

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. NIV

# A Believer?



## An Illustration

Charles Blondin, in 1859, was the first to cross the Niagara Gorge walking a tightrope. He traversed the nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile on a three inch diameter rope.

# Sanctification

The process of our character and actions being transformed into those that resemble Christ's is called sanctification. We become mature in Him.

## **How do we go about maturing in Christ?**

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (NIV)

# Abide in Christ

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

NRSV

**What does abide mean to you?**

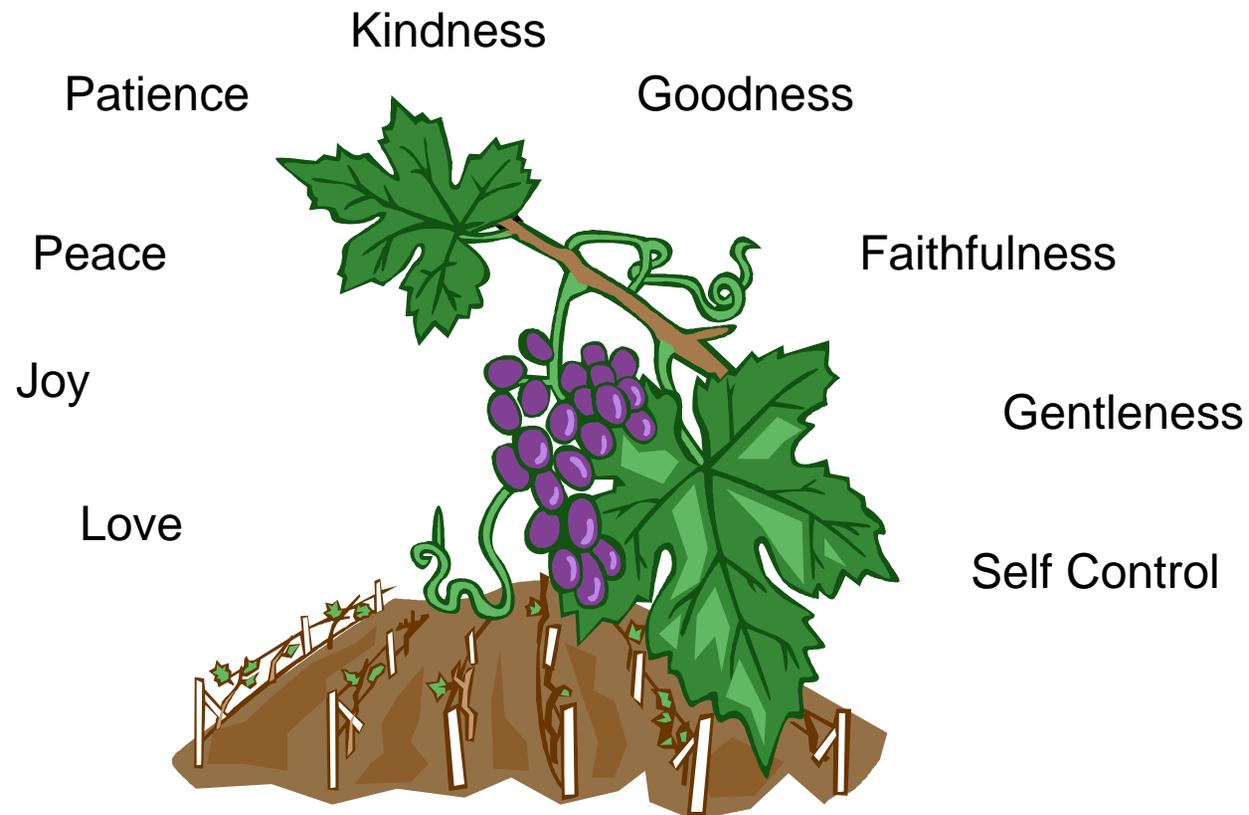


# Abide in Christ

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

NRSV



# Christ in you, your hope of glory!

Have you ever watched a blacksmith work?

## **Cold metal is placed in the fire.**

In the same fashion, the Holy Spirit places a believer in Christ.

## **Soon the fire is in the metal.**

When believers abide in Christ, they become filled with Him.



## **Now it can be shaped into something useful!**

Your hope of glory is now that Christ is in you and you abide in Him, your life will be transformed into His likeness.

# Abiding in Christ

My Responsibilities	His Responsibilities	Promises
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spiritually feeding on the very substance of Christ. Drinking in the Essence of His Life and the atonement He made for me. That is, I hunger and thirst for righteousness and am filled.</li> <li>• Love God with every fiber of my being and my neighbor as myself.</li> <li>• Live in His word. Build a close relationship with Him</li> <li>• Worship Him. Live in awe of Him.</li> <li>• Rely on Him in every aspect of my life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His Body was broken for me and His Blood was poured out to pay the penalty for sin and to bring new life.</li> <li>• He first loved me and continues to love others through me</li> <li>• He is the Word and He speaks His heart to me.</li> <li>• He is the Way and He leads me in it.</li> <li>• He is the Truth and He reveals Himself to me.</li> <li>• He is the Life which He freely gives to me eternally.</li> <li>• He is in me and expresses Himself to others through me.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sins forgiven</li> <li>• New life; Eternal Life</li> <li>• Abiding in Jesus</li> <li>• Knowledge of the Truth</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• Spiritual fruit - the character of Christ in me</li> <li>• Answered prayer</li> <li>• Redemption, Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Supernatural Capability</li> <li>• Adoption as a child of God.</li> </ul>

# Think About It...

1. Do you see fruit appearing in your character as a result of your abiding in Christ?
2. What area of your life is difficult for you to release to Christ's control?
3. What do you need to do to more fully abide in Christ?
4. Are you open to spending the time with Jesus necessary for building a close relationship with Him?